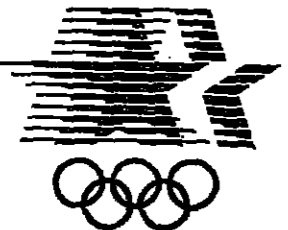


TOMORROW

Benn triumphant
Peter Kellner explains how Tony Benn took on the media and won

Action men
GCHQ protest: full report on the TUC day of action

Drug-runners
David Miller on the Olympics. Part 3: the drug factor



Paris match
Stuart Jones previews England's soccer match against France in Paris

The woman most likely
Wednesday Page on the chances of a woman running for the US vice-presidency

BA faces more strike action

British Airways faces the prospect of increased disruption as 7,000 maintenance workers at Heathrow airport vote on Thursday whether to join cabin staff in strike action. Last Friday cabin staff struck for 24 hours, and union leaders said the strike would be repeated this week unless management agreed to restart pay talks.

Jackson jibe



The Rev Jesse Jackson (above) admitted to a mainly Jewish audience that he referred to Jews as "Hymies" in a private conversation, but said he meant no offence.

McGovern's campaign, page 6

Aids scare

Poland has taken fright at the appearance of the disease Aids in the Eastern block and is circulating a warning leaflet describing the symptoms. Page 8

Fuel dispute

The Treasury has no intention of abandoning its campaign to raise fuel prices, despite being criticized for the recent increases in gas and electricity tariffs. Page 2

On probation

New head teachers will be on probation for up to two years and found a post elsewhere if they could not do the job. Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, said. Page 5

Pill for men

Tests using an anabolic steroid may help to produce a male contraceptive pill, the effects of which are reversible and the side effects apparently harmless. Page 16

Paris preview

David Miller talks to Michel Hidalgo, the inspirational manager of the French football team who play England in Paris tomorrow. Page 26

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Letters: On GCHQ, from Professor R. Lowe, and Mr P. Kelly; Police Bill, from Mr L. Curtis; civil liberties, from Mr L. Gostin

Leading articles: The Two Germanies: Farm tenancies; Tatars

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Putting independents in charge of elections: the strain of Morocco's desert war; why the REC needs an earthquake; Roger Scruton on an evil as bad as racism; Spectrum: the Olympic juggling act. Fashion: when his and hers are theirs
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GCHQ fighting fund launched

Unions poised to sever links with Government

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The new mood of co-operation between the Government and TUC was put in serious jeopardy last night by union leaders whose anger at ministers' refusal to lift the proposed union ban at the Government Communications Headquarters could spill over into dislocating public transport today.

On the eve of the day of protest called to offer support for trade unionists at GCHQ, TUC leaders called last night for an urgent review of the movement's relationship with the Government. They also sanctioned a call for a £500,000 fighting fund to support GCHQ employees dismissed for refusing to renounce union membership by Thursday's deadline.

As a first step toward breaking off links with the Government, TUC representatives will not attend next week's meeting of the tripartite National Economic Development Council.

The Civil Service unions last night started High Court proceedings against the Government, where they will call for an urgent judicial review of the Government's handling of the issue, to establish whether the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, have acted in an "unreasonable" manner.

An emergency meeting of the TUC general council is to be held tomorrow afternoon to decide whether to break off relations with the Government, which could threaten participation in the Manpower Services Commission, Health and Safety Commission, Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and Equal Opportunities Commission.

A special meeting yesterday of the TUC's "inner cabinet", the finance and general purposes committee, drew up the options for the unions at the start of a week which could prove crucial to whether the movement is prepared to countenance a head-on confrontation with the Government.

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said afterwards that the Prime Minister's "intransigence and autocracy was bound to call into question the nature of our dealing with the Government." He said the arguments

at tomorrow's general council would revolve around whether it was in the best interests of union members to have a dialogue with the Government. The fighting fund to be established by the TUC will come from a 5p levy of all 10 million members of affiliated unions. It will be used to help fulfil Civil Service unions' promises to make up the normal net pay of GCHQ employees dismissed for refusing to disown union membership.

In addition to the complaint made by the union movement against the Government's actions to the International Labour Organization, the "word labour court", the general council will also be recommended to pursue complaints against Mrs Thatcher and ministers with the European Commission on Human Rights.

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Questioned afterwards on a comparison between his stance over backing for the National Graphical Association's defiance of the law and today's unlawful supportive action for civil servants, Mr Murray said that each issue had to be decided on its merits and "the merits of this situation are obvious".

There will be strong pressure at tomorrow's general council for the TUC to press ahead with a boycott of relations with the Government, the policy long adopted by left-wingers. However, this time they will have the support of influential moderate figures, including Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union.

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Burning issue: Sikhs burning the Indian constitution outside India House in London yesterday in protest against Sikhs being described as part of Hinduism. Report page 7.

Four Britons escape capture in Angola

By Richard Dowden

Four Britons working in the diamond mines of northern Angola escaped being captured by the UNITA guerrilla band which abducted 75 of their colleagues including 17 other Britons last Thursday.

Apparently they were driving from an outlying station towards the mining headquarters and, seeing smoke rising from it, guessed what had happened and drove west towards Malange.

A spokesman for Mining and Technical Services which provides skilled mineworkers for the Angolan diamond mining company Diamang, said yesterday that two Filipinos died in the attack and a Portuguese suffered a broken arm.

He said that the names of those who had escaped capture as well as those who had been kidnapped were not being released until next of kin had been informed. The 77 included 41 Portuguese and 17 Filipinos including some women.

He confirmed that the four mentioned in the Unita communiqué Mr Neil Ayres, Mr Thomas Murphy, Mr Dennis Clauson and Mr Robin Kennedy had been abducted.

It is understood that in exchange for the release of the hostages, Unitas is demanding an end to foreign geologists and engineers working for Angola.

In Luanda the British Embassy said they were still trying to piece together what had happened. They were keeping in close touch with the Angolan authorities who had assured them nothing would be done which might jeopardise the lives of the hostages.

Unitas, which is backed by the South Africans, has been fighting the MPLA Government of Angola since 1975 and claims to have 15,000 guerrillas at its command.

For Unitas the hostages provide publicity at a crucial moment, but whether the rebel movement will be able to make political advantage out of that publicity remains to be seen.

Bonn imposes news blackout on niece

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The Bonn Government imposed a news blackout on the niece of Herr Willi Stoph, the East German Prime Minister, to leave the West German Embassy in Prague to go to the West.

A Government spokesman yesterday refused to make any comment saying results were more important than publicity. Bonn is clearly annoyed that details of the case were released over the weekend, and has made it clear that this would only make a solution more difficult.

However, the mass circulation newspaper *Bild* said yesterday that East Germany was ready to allow Frau Ingrid Berg, her husband, her mother-in-law and two young children to emigrate to West Germany, but only if they first left the embassy voluntarily and returned to East Germany. If they did not, East Berlin was said to be threatening to stop all further emigration.

The West German Embassy was reported to be working normally, though an unknown number of East Germans who have sought asylum are still inside. On Sunday West German television showed a film of some of them walking in the garden at the back of the building.

Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Prime Minister, has appealed to Herr Erich Honecker, the East German party leader, to allow Herr Stoph's relatives out. But yesterday Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the Social Democratic parliamentary leader, echoed government warnings that East Germans should not attempt a retort of such spectacular actions as this ruined the prospects of others hoping to emigrate.

Czechoslovakia is the only country which East Germans are able to visit freely, showing only their identity cards at the border.

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Ruth, 12, speaks up for the Oxford Right

By John Witherow

Ruth Lawrence, the mathematics prodigy who at 12 is Britain's youngest undergraduate, has become embroiled in politics at St Hugh's College, Oxford, where she has been espousing views definitely to the right of centre.

Known for her forthright approach, she recently drove a number of fellow students from a college meeting when she labelled the former Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov, a "cruel torturer" and opposed giving money to a woman's peace group.

Ruth, who beat 529 other



R

Democracy threatened after Cheltenham union ban, Benn claims

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Tony Benn took his campaign against the union ban at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) a step further yesterday when he said that the next stage would be the abolition of democracy.

The Labour candidate in the Cheltenham by-election has already said that the Government was planning to make all trade unions illegal.

But he said in the constituency yesterday: "Clearly what we now face is a major attack upon civil liberties in Britain and if the unions are destroyed, which they won't be of course, but they would be destroyed, our freedom would not be safe."

Mr Benn, who will address a Cheltenham demonstration against the ban today, said: "I think this is a struggle for the survival of civil liberties in Britain, and if you allow the right to join a voluntary

Alliance problem 'overcome'

Cheltenham liberals hit rock bottom last week when it was suddenly realized that their by-election candidate, Mr Max Payne, was showing all the signs of a Darlington-style collapse (Anthony Bevis writes).

But it was reported yesterday that the problem, one of political credibility, of the candidate had been overcome over the weekend with a constituency-wide delivery of a detailed bulletin giving the fullest possible explanation of Liberal/Alliance policy.

Liberal sources said yesterday that that had helped further to drive down Conservative support and it was suspected that Mr Payne was now beginning to nibble away at the Labour margins.

Nevertheless, it was admitted that if another opinion poll gave Mr Tony Benn a lead of more than 20 per cent in Cheltenham today or tomorrow, then Mr Payne would be well and truly "throttled" in Thursday's by-election.

If enough voters feel that Mr Payne has a chance of winning, then there is enough antipathy towards Mr Benn to give the



Mr Payne: Nibbling at Labour margins.

Pressure grows on police cells

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Evidence that remand prisoners are being held in police cells for up to a week or more came yesterday from lawyers in north west London, an MP and the Prison Reform Trust. At least one prisoner is said to have been detained in a police cell for up to a fortnight.

A weekend, 203 remand prisoners were being held in police cells in the South-east because of a shortage of space in overcrowded London prisons, now under unprecedented pressure because of numbers being processed by the courts.

More than 10,000 prisoners were being held in the South-east last Friday, the most on record.

Mr Christopher Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, said that he was in correspondence with Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, about the problem. Mr Patrick Adams, who had been held in a police cell for a fortnight or more.

Lawyers say they and families have difficulty keeping track of remand prisoners who are frequently moved at short notice. The first lawyers may know about a prisoner's move is when they turn up for an appointment.

Even when prisoners are not having to be held overnight in police cells they may still be under pressure. Chief Supt Kenneth Cooper, divisional commander of Northampton Police, told *The Times* that last Wednesday 27 remand prisoners came from jail to Kettering where there are five police cells and one interview room.

In a letter to Northamptonshire's solicitors, Chief Supt Cooper says: "Suitable accommodation is simply not available and operational demands upon resources do not allow me to commit the required manpower to the task."

"Consequently I have been forced to invoke a policy that no access will be available to legal advisers to remand or production prisoners, whilst awaiting court proceedings, unless the court directs such access will be made available, or such access is vital to the interests of the prisoner."

Mr Cooper told *The Times* he had no wish to take away from any prisoner his rights. He appreciated the need for legal advisers to be briefed, but it appeared that opportunities for interviews already existing in prisons had not been fully used.

Northamptonshire Law Society said yesterday that it was highly desirable for lawyers to be able to see clients before they went into court to take instructions and check that there was no change in their situation. The effect of the ruling would be to interfere with the administration of the courts by cases being put back into the list or adjourned.

Thatcher recipe for female responsibility

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Many women do not make use of their opportunities or are too easily contented with their job, according to the Prime Minister.

There is nothing unfeminine about climbing the tree of responsibility, Mrs Margaret Thatcher says in BBC World Service interview to be broadcast today. Women still have less self-confidence in their ability than men, and she questions why there are no women editors of national newspapers or why there has never been a female BBC director-general.

Mrs Thatcher says the problem is not getting women to take the last step to the top; if the opportunity comes and the personality is right it will be taken. The difficulty is getting women up the responsibility tree so that there are more to choose from for the top jobs.

The Prime Minister interviewed in *Women in Power*, emphasized the "enormous" value she placed on her friendship with women. "Indeed sometimes you would not be able to carry on without them, because you sometimes must go and sit down and let down your hair with someone you can trust totally who understands similar things and who will just talk."

Mrs Thatcher says that she finds it very easy to talk to Mrs Gandhi because of what they have in common and their shared understanding of the combination of the pull of family and total dedication to politics.

Speaker appeals to MPs for better behaviour

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker of the Commons, appealed to MPs for better behaviour in the Chamber yesterday after renewed expression of concern by senior backbenchers over deteriorating standards (our Political Reporter writes).

Mr Weatherill, who was elected Speaker after the June election, said in a statement to the House that although robust debate had always been a feature of the parliamentary system, it should not be allowed to extend to disruption of the proceedings.

He said that MPs had a supreme duty to set an example. Mr Weatherill's remarks came after last Thursday's noisy disturbances after Prime Minister's question time, as Labour and Social Democrat MPs tussled for seats.

However, Conservative MPs have not been blameless. Some of them are loud in their heckling and a group recently held up scorecards, in the style of ice dancing judges, after a contribution from Neil Kinnock. That, too, was deprecated by Mr Weatherill.

the nation comes first and most people in the country believe that."

But he added: "Quite rightly, people are concerned that nobody should be put into a position in which they cannot join a trade union without a very good reason. So it is very healthy in a society where people are concerned; it is a mark of our democracy."

Mr Denis Healey said at a by-election meeting in Cheltenham last night that it was no accident that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had decided to rob the dedicated men and women of GCHQ of the right to belong to a union under the medieval concept of the royal prerogative.

He said: "She really believes that she can usurp the divine right of absolute monarchy to ride roughshod over the British people's ancient rights."

Mr Benn and his advisors have had no content with his reputation as a headline left-winger. He has consistently refused to submit to regular press questioning and his rare press conferences have been marked by a general air of tension and embarrassment of fearful expectation that Labour divisions might be exposed.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said that he agreed with Mr Benn on a long list of policy. It was only in this week's *Punch* that he calculated the area of disagreement amounted to about 15 per cent of Labour policy.

Mr Nick Bourne, the Conservative candidate, has fought a creditable, if uninspired campaign. No one expects him to win; if he comes second he will be a party hero.

A BBC television *Nightwatch* survey of a panel of Cheltenham voters last night gave Mr Benn 46 per cent, compared with 32 per cent for Mr Payne, and 20 per cent for Mr Bourne, a Labour lead of 14 per cent.

their criticism of Mr Payne identifies the area of Labour concern.

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the Official Unionists would not be opposed to any long term increase in the size of the full-time Royal Ulster Constabulary, but do not believe this should be accompanied by a parallel decline in the size or role of the UDR.

Mr Molyneux said any suggestion of a reduction in the role of the UDR had to be discounted as a practical possibility. He said: "Nothing could bring greater joy to terrorism than to see another element in the battle against it, taken out."

Mr Maginnis said the party would urge the Government to retain the UDR at its present strength of 7,111 full, and part-time members. Meanwhile, the Northern Ireland Police Authority confirmed that Sir John Hermon, the chief constable of the RUC, has requested an increase of between 250 and 500 in its 7,997 full time strength.

Colin Nesbitt, aged 23, from north Belfast, whose skull was smashed by "loyalist" paramilitaries in a punishment attack on Sunday was very seriously ill in hospital last night.

However, some members of



Rolls of honour: The first six-door Rolls-Royce.

Rolls extends its range

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The first six door Rolls-Royce car measuring 20ft 6in long and weighing more than two and a half tons is being produced at the rate of two a month by a Weybridge, Surrey, firm of conversion specialists to orders placed by Rolls-Royce.

The first two have been shipped in some secrecy to customers in the Far East and cost about £140,000 each.

But yesterday neither Rolls-Royce nor Robert Jankel Design, Weybridge, would disclose the names of the buyers or indicate which countries further orders were coming from.

From brief details available,



Mr Gummer: "Defence comes first".

Smoking in Britain: 2

Politicians 'fail to use powers'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

In the next 10 years, about four million people will give up smoking, and smokers, now about 35 per cent of the adult population, will be outnumbered three to one by non-smokers.

Death and illness caused by smoking will still be seen as shockingly high, but there will be fewer victims of lung cancer, bronchitis, and heart disease. Many casualties of the 1990s will be today's smokers.

Sponsorship of sport and arts by tobacco companies will have declined. Cigarette advertising will be less common on the streets.

Cigarette sales will have fallen from the present 102,000 million a year to about 66,000 million, less than half the figure of 10 years ago.

Those are predictions from the Health Education Council, Action on Smoking and Health, the General Household Survey, the Department of Health, and social scientists, and independent experts.

But just how realistic they prove to be will depend largely on politicians.

However, they are consist-

ently accused of failing to use that power.

In 1981, Sir George Young, then Minister for Health, favoured a complete ban on tobacco advertising, and was energetically pursuing tough anti-smoking policies. He was then moved to the Department of Environment.

The Royal College of Physicians, most health organizations, and experienced political observers believe that he lost his job because the tobacco

A Harris Research Centre opinion poll, commissioned by the Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (Forest), indicates that 54 per cent of 1,336 British Rail passengers questioned were in favour of dividing buffet cars into smoking and non-smoking areas. Forty-two per cent favoured a total ban on smoking in refreshment

industry brought sufficient influence to bear to improve him.

Last year, the Minister for Health, Mr Kenneth Clarke, sanctioned a health-promotion research trust, financed with £11m from the industry. A condition of the funding,

though, was that the use and effects of tobacco products would be excluded from research.

That conditional acceptance was described by the British Medical Association as disgraceful.

Dr Charles Fletcher, emeritus professor of clinical epidemiology at London University, said: "Politicians are not in the least interested in health, except their own health."

A vehement critic of the industry and the Government is Mr Mike Daube, senior lecturer in health education at Edinburgh University.

Last year, at the world conference on smoking and health in Winnipeg, he launched a fierce attack on the attitudes of ministers and civil servants.

About the same time he applied to be head of public affairs of the Health Education Council, which is funded by the Government.

Informed sources say he emerged as the best qualified of more than 200 candidates. But he did not get the job.

The reason, it was said later, was that he was unacceptable to ministers.

Tomorrow: Inside the industry.

Unionists urge Prior not to reduce role of UDR

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Unionist leaders are to urge Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to resist any attempts to scale down the role of the Ulster Defence Regiment in security operations across the province.

The leaders of the Official Unionist, and Democratic Unionist parties, will meet Mr Prior later this week for talks particularly on border security and they will question him about future plans for the locally recruited regiment.

The regiment itself had no comment to make on discussions concerning long-term security policies in the province or the unhappiness of some senior security forces at the UDR's role which is seen by some to be counterproductive.

However, Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, and Mr Kenneth Maginnis, the party's security spokesman and a former major in the regiment, both defended the UDR. They said that criticisms of it were part of a long running campaign to besmirch its reputation.

However, some members of

Missiles bring Synod protests

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

There were protests at the opening of the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday at the way the issue of cruise missiles had been brought forward for debate, the Synod having twice previously declined to consider it. It is due for debate on Thursday.

Canon George Austin, of St Alban's diocese, told the Synod: "Only 12 months ago we said it was not our business to do this sort of thing. There was considerable applause for his remarks."

Later, Mr Paul Rippon, of Norwich diocese, said: "I want to express my anger on hearing that we are having foisted on us yet again a debate on cruise missiles. Who are these trendy people who want to foist upon us a debate on this?"

The issue of cruise missiles is due to be debated on a motion from the chairman of the Board for Social Responsibility, the Bishop of Birmingham, Dr Hugh Montefiore.

Printing unions agree new technology deal

Leaders of 160,000 industrial printing workers have agreed to speed the process whereby new technology is introduced.

As part of a wage deal worth about 5.1 per cent, the National Graphical Association and Sogat 82 have agreed to set up a joint group to advise and encourage companies to introduce new processes.

The unions and members of the 2,500 strong British Printing Industries Federation will be represented on the National Joint Efficiency and Productivity Committee.

The pay offer and monitoring committee are conditional on the approval of union members, but the deal has been approved by negotiators for both sections.

The most sensitive area under consideration is the material produced by word processors.

Overseas selling prices

Lord Lane said the evidence from a pathologist had caused the court great anxiety. It pointed inescapably to the fact that Miss Bigwood had clutched the head of her killer

Treasury continues with 'economic' fuel price policy

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Treasury has no intention of abandoning its campaign to force up fuel prices to "economic" levels, despite the political dispute that continues to revolve around the recent increase in gas and electricity tariffs.

It believes, for example, that domestic gas prices are still between 15 and 20 per cent too low, despite the 4 per cent increase introduced in January. British Gas is not charging enough to cover the long-term cost of its supplies, the Treasury says.

It is also concerned that the electricity industry is not making enough profit for an industry of its size, although it accepts that electricity prices now appear to be roughly in line with the industry's long-term costs.

Despite the 2 per cent increase in prices imposed this year, the electricity supply industry is still expected to make a real return on its £30,000m of assets of less than 2 per cent, which the Treasury regards as inadequate.

It has launched a joint investigation with the Department of Energy into why the

return should be so low, especially after the huge publicly funded investment in new power stations over the past 20 years.

If the electricity industry was to meet the standard 5 per cent real rate of return target applied to public sector investment projects, it should be making £1,500m a year before interest payments, not the £850m a year it reported last year, Treasury officials say.

It is clear that the Treasury expects to be given a critical drubbing from the Select Committee on Energy's report on the gas and electricity price rises this year. The report is due to be published on Wednesday and is expected to accuse the Treasury of using fuel price increases as a form of "back-door taxation".

The department has been at pains to make clear that it is sticking to its energy pricing policy, despite the criticisms. The dispute inside Cabinet about the rises has obscured what should be an important long-term policy issue, the Treasury argues.

Greenham evictions 'this week'

By Colin Hughes

Newbury District Council's five-member Greenham Common committee meets tonight to decide to evict women protesters outside the nuclear weapons airbase from one of their few remaining patches of land.

Mr Brian Thetford, Newbury's chief executive, said that the expected bailiffs would move in to evict women from three camps along Burway Bank Road, on the north perimeter, by the end of the week.

That will leave three other camps: one at the main gate on Ministry of Transport land, one on Ministry of Defence land, and another on partially common land in a copse on the east side of the base.

The 100 women remaining regularly in the camps are adamant that they will stay.

Another 22 women appeared before Newbury magistrates yesterday on charges including criminal damage, intent to damage the perimeter fence, obstructing a police officer, and obstructing the highway.

Monty Cohen (left), PC John Sewell, and his wife, Anna.

Marmaduke, a ginger tom cat, appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court in north-east London yesterday.

Police Constable John Sewell said he was kicked and punched when he called at Mr Monty Cohen's home to ask for the cat

Cartland's old style virtues

The idea of a woman saving herself for the right man is very appealing these days, according to Barbara Cartland, novelist, who has sold 370 million of her books across the world.

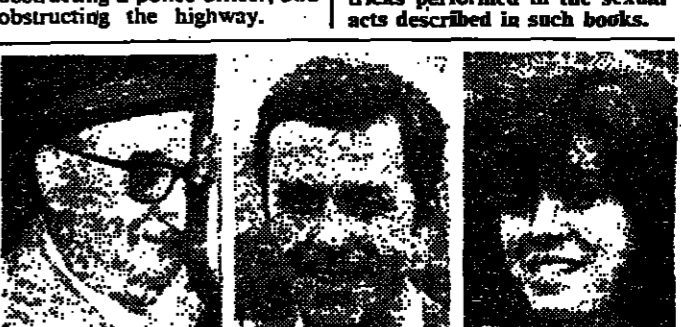
All her handsome heroes never make love to the beautiful virgins until after the ringing of wedding bells. Pre-marital sex is taboo in every one of her novels, and that she says, is what modern women like to read.

From my mail, I find more and more women turning back to the traditional woman's role said Miss Cartland aged 82, who is the step-grandmother of the Princess of Wales. She is attending a celebration lunch at the Dorchester this week, as the guest of the bookshop Foyles to mark her latest literary success.

It's a book for lovers called *The Romance of Food*. "People everywhere are sick of the latest batch of pornographic novels," she said. "I'm quite convinced that most men could not achieve some of the tricks performed in the sexual acts described in such books."

which, he said, had disappeared while he was on holiday.

Mr Cohen, aged 57, of Thurlby Close, Woodford Bridge, Essex, denies stealing the cat, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and common assault. The case continues



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"I wish it could be repeated a thousand times across the country"

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

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Law Society to overhaul complaints procedure after 'disgraceful conduct'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Radical reforms in the way the Law Society handles complaints will be made as a result of a report published yesterday that describes as a disgrace the way it dealt with the case of a solicitor who overcharged a client by £131,000.

The report, the result of the society's internal inquiry into the affair, rejects allegations of a "whitewash" or "cover up". However, it says that the society's handling of complaints by Mr Leslie Parsons, a south Wales business man, against his solicitor Mr Glanville Davies, "fell far short of that which he was entitled to expect and he has been seriously wronged".

The report found "administrative failures, mistakes, wrong decisions, errors of judgment, failures in communication, high-handedness, and insensitivity on a scale that must have done great harm to the Law Society".

Steps must now be taken, it says, to learn from the inquiry's findings and relate them to complaints procedures so that "criticism of this magnitude can never again be levelled at the society".

Mr Davies, of Llanelli, a solicitor since 1945 and a council member of the Law Society from 1967 until he resigned because of ill health in 1982, was ordered by a High Court judge to be struck off the roll of solicitors last October.

The proceedings were brought by Mr Parsons after the Law Society had failed to act over his complaints, first made in 1978 and then repeated on several occasions during a period of five years.

Mr Davies admitted "gross and persistent professional misconduct" in submitting and seeking to defend a bill for £198,000 which was eventually reduced to £67,000.

The society's inquiry, conducted by three council members under Mr Philip Ely, a Southampton solicitor, has been accepted by the society's governing council and its report sent to all 44,000 solicitors in England and Wales.

Mr Graham Lee, secretary of professional and public relations at the society, said yesterday that measures to be

taken to prevent anything similar happening again included increasing the number of staff who deal with about 8,000 complaints a year from the public.

Another change is that in future complaints against coun-

cil members would be referred for advice to an outside firm of solicitors to avoid allegations of bias.

The society is also seeking increased powers from the Government to deal with cases of "bad professional work" from solicitors. It wants powers to order solicitors to forfeit all or part of their fees in cases where they have been shown to be incompetent or inefficient.

Mr Christopher Hewson, the society's president, has written an apology to Mr Parsons, saying that the society will not seek to enforce the order for costs made against him in the High Court.

It was estimated that Mr Parsons faced a bill between £5,000 and £9,000 after the judge rejected his argument that the society should pay its own costs for not bringing disciplinary proceedings against Mr Davies.

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Life for insurance plot killer

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL's Mini, Metro, Maestro and yet-to-be-launched Montego cars have won accolades in a new survey of the British fleet market which shows them to be among the most efficient and cheap for a company to own.

The survey, conducted by the Birmingham-based Interleasing company, shows that the Montego 1.6 litre model should cost a fleet owner who leases the car 19.6p a mile to run. This is cheaper than the competition, including the Vauxhall Cavalier and Ford Sierra and only 0.4p more expensive than the Ford Orion.

The results of the survey, which covered 120 cars divided into 12 sections, should prove heartening to BL at a time when its market share has been stagnating.

This month, Vauxhall's share is expected to be over 20 per cent, compared with BL's 17 per cent, thanks to the continuing success of the Cavalier, Astra and Spanish-built Nova models. General Motors, Vauxhall's parent, is expected to be confirmed as this year's leading

importer so far, beating Ford for the first time.

Interleasing's figures, which BL stressed yesterday were unofficial, put the Montego two-litre Vanden Plas automatic model, the top of the range, in the lead at the expensive end of the fleet market with a mileage cost of 25.9p against the Ford Granada 2.0 1X at 26.3p and Rover 3000 at 27.6p.

BL, which is launching the Montego publicly on April 25, declined to comment yesterday on its specific performance figures and it appears that Interleasing has made assumptions based on the Maestro. However, the new car, officially called the LM11, is BL's answer to the fleet sector dominance won by cars such as the Sierra and Cavalier.

Austin Rover said: "We think the fleet market has great potential growth in 1984. Interleasing, which claims to operate the UK's largest contract hire fleet, based its figures on a mileage of 18,000 a year and took into account leasing and all motoring costs.

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Top award for actor's daughter

Sarah Woodward (above), the daughter of the actor Edward Woodward (right), has won the top award given by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) to its graduates (Mark Roselli writes).

A secret vote by staff and directors selected Sarah, aged 20, for the Bancroft Gold Medal. Sarah also gets £200 from the Honourable Society of the Knights of the Round Table. (photograph above: John Voos).

Mason's husband, James, aged 31, had earlier admitted murder and also received a life sentence.

The court was told that the couple's plan was to fake the husband's death by killing Mr Moore, who bore a slight resemblance to Mr Mason, and collect £76,000 insurance money.

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Out-of-court divorce conciliation reviewed

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government has ordered a review of conciliation as a means of settling disputes between divorcing couples over finance and children, and avoiding bitter courtroom hearings.

The review, announced by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone yesterday, means that the Government is reserving a final decision on whether to fund a nationwide conciliation service.

An interdepartmental inquiry by civil servants last July rejected pleas that the Government should support a national, out-of-court conciliation service similar to the pioneer scheme run on a voluntary basis in Bristol.

Instead, it concluded that conciliation - by which couples are helped to settle disputes amicably and avoid court hearings - should be an integral part of divorce court procedure.

However, Lord Hailsham says that while the Government "will have regard" to the recommendation of the civil servants' inquiry that no grounds have been made for central funding for out-of-court schemes, there was insufficient information about such schemes on which to make a decision.

It is therefore setting up a project unit, as recommended by the interdepartmental inquiry, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Research Council. The unit has a £200,000 budget to study conciliation schemes over three years.

Lord Hailsham also said that changes in court procedure that might be necessary to make provision for conciliation were being considered by the Matrimonial Causes Procedure Committee under Mrs Justice Booth.

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Couple sue surgeon for negligence over vasectomy failure

By Colin Hughes

A couple who felt angry, upset, and let down when they conceived their sixth child three years after the husband's vasectomy sued the surgeon in the High Court yesterday for medical negligence and damages.

Mr and Mrs Donald and Patricia Thake, of Spring Road, Bidborough, Kent, said that the surgeon did not warn them of a slight risk of "God working the mystery" and rejoining the severed tube, their counsel, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, said.

They agreed that Mr Brian Maurice, general surgeon at Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, should perform the £20 operation when Mrs Thake, aged 44, became pregnant with her fifth child of the marriage in 1975. Two sperm tests on Mr Thake, aged 45, afterwards proved negative and the surgeon wrote to them: "You may reasonably take no further contraceptive precautions from now on".

Mr Maurice said he also warned them that the cut tube occasionally rejoined, adding: "I am no plumber. One is dealing with healing tissue".

Mr and Mrs Thake said they were never warned. In September 1978, while fruit-picking in the Kent orchards, she

complained of backache and putting on weight. Her friends "ribbed her" that she must be pregnant, knowing that her husband had had a vasectomy, but she laughed it off "knowing in her mind that she could not be pregnant".

A pregnancy test in November 1978 proved positive and the couple's family doctor wrote an exclamation mark on their notes where the vasectomy was recorded. Tests showed that Mr Thake's sperm tubes had rejoined.

Mrs Th

PARLIAMENT February 27 1984

Union ban stands: GCHQ must be permanently on alert

SECURITY

The function of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) is to be permanently on the alert: nothing less would do, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons when he conceded that the unions had made very real attempts to meet points over the dispute relating to the banning of union membership at the establishment.

However, he said, the Government had concluded that proposals from the unions did not remove the risk of conflicting pressures from outside GCHQ on the undoubted loyalty of those who worked there and did not satisfy the Government's ultimate responsibility for safeguarding national security.

It was not the Government's intention to extend these measures beyond those agencies whose primary functions were concerned with security and intelligence.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said the fact that the unions were seeking to fight their case at GCHQ by provoking disruption elsewhere in the public service made the Government's position clearer than anything he could say. Elements in the union proposals had led to conflict in the past and there could be no guarantee that they would not lead to conflict again in the future.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the Government's decision on GCHQ was a kick in the teeth for all those union leaders who had been prepared to try to develop a constructive relationship with the Government. Above all, it was a kick in the teeth for Mr Leo Murray, General Secretary of the TUC.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that, first and foremost, GCHQ was one of the security and intelligence agencies on which Britain's security and, to some degree, that of her allies, depended.

Any significant interruption in the flow of intelligence from GCHQ (he said) could, in circumstances which can never be foreseen in advance, deprive the Government of the day of information which could be vital to our national security.

It is crucially important that GCHQ's operations and activities should be maintained without any disruption or interference.

He hoped all sides would accept that the decision to ban unions at GCHQ was not a very wise one.

There is not one word of truth (he continued) in the wild and outrageous claims which have been made on this point.

The arrangements introduced at GCHQ were those which had always existed in other agencies whose operations were mainly concerned with security and intelligence.

Successful employment protection acts had provided for the need to exempt certain categories of employment on ground of national security. Certain types of work, similar to those he had signed had been in force since 1971 for the other intelligence and security agencies. They had been signed by the responsible ministers of governments of both parties.

The only anomaly was that a different situation had been allowed to grow up in GCHQ. It was only once the Government had specifically and publicly acknowledged that GCHQ was also an agency dealing with security intelligence, as the Prime Minister did in the House on May 12 last year, that the way was open to correct that anomaly.

There was an absolute necessity to have arrangements which met every requirement of national security, and he doubted if this would have been so widely recognized and endorsed if the Government had not taken the

decision that he announced on January 25.

But the extent of the support for our objectives (he said) is none the less welcome for that. The differences which remain can be seen as differences about means rather than ends.

But in deciding on the right means the Government had to take full account of the extent of the problem, potential as well as actual, that was revealed by the events between February 1979 and April 1981 when the continuity of GCHQ was disrupted seven times. Over 10,000 working days had been lost.

More than 25 per cent of the staff were involved in the so-called day of action on March 9, 1981 when parts of GCHQ were virtually closed down by industrial disruption. The action included many engaged in sensitive operations.

That effect and activity must be regarded as unacceptable.

We can never know what intelligence said has been or might be lost. Fortunately no serious threat to the nation's security materialised during these periods of disruption. But those are not arguments for accepting the possibility of disruption as a fact of life. The function of GCHQ is to be permanently on the alert. Nothing less will do.

But the decision to proceed as the Government has done was not taken lightly. Since 1978 management had been seeking ways with the unions of avoiding disruption. But union officials had been thinking along very different lines.

In February 1979 a national union officer had been quoted as saying that "the strike would be a complete paralysing Government communications".

In 1980 informal soundings about a no-strike or no-disruption agreement were taken locally by GCHQ management. The reaction of local union representatives was not encouraging.

During the selective action after the one day strike of March 9, 1981, GCHQ's senior management and very senior officials in the Civil Service Department appealed to officials at the CSU not to take disruptive action in some key areas.

The only result had been a deliberately perverse pressure to continue strike action had been brought to bear on GCHQ staff in precisely those areas.

The same month unions announced that there would be a range of selective and disruptive action "which will affect Britain's secret communications surveillance network".

The union leaders concerned knew what they were doing. He had said in evidence to the Select Committee on Employment that they deliberately chose to direct action against what they correctly saw as a very sensitive and vital agency of the Government, with the avowed intent of causing both national and international repercussions.

To put it more bluntly (he added) they were quite prepared, in pursuance of a dispute about pay, to cause or threaten damage to national security.

The attitude of some at the time was well summarized in the Council of Civil Service Unions campaign report, 1981, where it was said "our ultimate success depends upon the extent to which... defence readiness is hampered... by this and further action".

The Government's four objectives (he said) were: that GCHQ staff must be deprived of tight of control on departmental issues for security reasons; part of the conditions of service should be no interference in GCHQ's activities by industrial disruption; that the way was open to correct that anomaly.

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examined the concessions offered by the unions, as recommended by the select committee.

The unions had made real attempts to meet the Government's points. But it had reached the conclusion that the unions' proposals unfortunately did not remove the risk of conflicting pressures from outside GCHQ on the undoubted loyalty of those who worked there, and they did not satisfy the Government's ultimate responsibility for safeguarding national security.

The Government recognised that the proposals put by the unions constituted a genuine and sincere attempt to work out an agreement which would meet the Government's objectives. But there remained a gap which could not be bridged.

The unions were prepared to accept a condition of service that there would be no industrial action which could interfere with the uninterrupted operation of essential security and intelligence services.

This implied a distinction between "essential security and intelligence services" and the rest of GCHQ. That distinction (he said) is one which we cannot accept. National security required that GCHQ should be treated as a whole and industrial disruption avoided throughout.

The Government had been concerned to provide a fair deal for the staff of GCHQ. As a consequence of the measures the staff had lost certain statutory rights under the employment protection Acts.

The change had occurred perfectly legally in a way explicitly provided for in the Acts themselves. But there had nevertheless been a loss and the Government had thought it right to make an ex-gratia payment in recognition of that.

There was (he said) no legal obligation on us to do so, but as a matter of equity, it was the right thing to do. It is as simple as that. Talk of bribery to leave the union is a matter of equity, it is the right thing to do. It is as simple as that. Talk of bribery to leave the union is a matter of equity, it is the right thing to do. It is as simple as that.

The Government fully recognized the importance of having a representative body which could talk to management on behalf of the staff. The Director of GCHQ had invited staff to make proposals for the formation of the staff association. The Government intended it to be a body which would represent the interests of all the staff, whether members of unions or not.

The Government recognised that the unions' position in this respect was a matter of equity. It was the right thing to do. It is as simple as that. Talk of bribery to leave the union is a matter of equity, it is the right thing to do. It is as simple as that.

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the public service makes my point more clearly than anything that I can say.

Indeed, one of the union leaders involved has said in a letter to his members that "to avoid giving propaganda points to the Government and to the interests of continuing to hold public support, the GCHQ members will not be asked to take strike action on that day (28 February)".

Nothing could make it clearer that in his mind at least pressure on GCHQ is being avoided on this occasion largely for tactical purposes.

The measures had nothing to do with fears about traitors, moles and the like. Their purpose was to insulate a vital part of the country's security and intelligence system from the conflicting pressures which were so apparent in the past.

Pressures (he continued) which with all respect to Mr Murray, had nothing to do with family, religion or party, but were brought to bear by the unions on a basis similar to what they have led us to expect will happen tomorrow.

The Government had been concerned to provide a fair deal for the staff of GCHQ. As a consequence of the measures the staff had lost certain statutory rights under the employment protection Acts.

The change had occurred perfectly legally in a way explicitly provided for in the Acts themselves. But there had nevertheless been a loss and the Government had thought it right to make an ex-gratia payment in recognition of that.

There was (he said) no legal obligation on us to do so, but as a matter of equity, it was the right thing to do. It is as simple as that. Talk of bribery to leave the union is a matter of equity, it is the right thing to do. It is as simple as that.

The Government fully recognized the importance of having a representative body which could talk to management on behalf of the staff. The Director of GCHQ had invited staff to make proposals for the formation of the staff association. The Government intended it to be a body which would represent the interests of all the staff, whether members of unions or not.

The Government recognised that the unions' position in this respect was a matter of equity. It was the right thing to do. It is as simple as that. Talk of bribery to leave the union is a matter of equity, it is the right thing to do. It is as simple as that.

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Head teachers should start on probation, Joseph says

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Newly appointed head teachers should be put on one to two years' probation to make sure that they can do the job, if they cannot, they should be found "a jolly good" post elsewhere, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

His proposal to deal with tired or ineffective head teachers was disclosed at a one-day national conference in London on the selection of head teachers and was accompanied by a suggestion that head teachers who were "burnt out" could be moved to less demanding jobs on new, two-tier pensions.

The proposal for a probationary period was almost universally condemned by teachers' associations, which said it was impractical and unnecessary.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, which has more than 20,000 members in primary and secondary schools, said that it was ridiculous because it would put off applicants and create undue caution.

The local authorities, the headteachers' employers, which would have to agree to any new scheme are also understood to be sceptical.

Sir Keith said yesterday that he would consult both groups and called for a public debate on how head teachers should be selected for primary and secondary schools.

Arguing that the local authorities must be made responsible for operating a probation system, Sir Keith said: "Promotion and potential for headship can be gauged at the time of selection, but actual performance and effectiveness as a head can only be ascertained in post."

"Management's need to know about current performance and effectiveness is nowhere so critical as in the post of head. If an appointed candidate turns out in practice to fall significantly short of the promise which led to his or her appointment, the consequences for the school and its pupils will be serious."

Explaining his idea for transferring "burnt-out" head teachers to less onerous tasks, Sir Keith said that it had been put to him that senior people in schools were forced by the pension rules to cling to demanding posts of higher responsibility.

"This is an unplanned and unfortunate effect of the pension rules and I have decided that there would be merit in changing them so that those moving to less demanding posts have their pension rights protected."

He proposed that the final pension might be made up of two elements: the first in respect of service and final salary in the first job, protected against inflation, and the second in respect of service and salary in the second job.

That idea met with approval yesterday. Those who condemned Sir Keith's first proposal said that it showed that the minister did not understand how teachers became heads.

During questions to Sir Keith, Mr Peter Snape, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, called for the probationary period to apply to heads of department rather than head teachers.

Probation exists at present only for new teachers, and lasts for one year.

Mr Hart said that the vast majority of head teachers in trouble had been in post for five years or more.

71% back 'opt-out' transplant system

By David Nicholson-Lord

Three quarters of the public would let their organs be used to save another's life and would also support the "opt-out" system for donors in which the organs of a dead person are used for transplants unless they have recorded an objection.

Most people do not carry a donor card because they have never seriously thought about it.

Only a quarter of the people questioned in a MORI poll last week had ever filled in a donor card, although 93 per cent had heard of the scheme. But fewer than half of those who had filled in a card were carrying one when interviewed.

The poll was commissioned for BBC's *That's Life* television programme, which has recently campaigned over the shortage of organs for transplants after organizing an appeal to save the life of Ben Hardwick, the child given a liver transplant at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

The poll, of 1,113 adults in 55 constituencies, showed that 77 per cent would let their organs be used and 71 per cent supported the "opt-out" system, used in some other countries, with 23 per cent opposed to it.

If the opt-out system was introduced in Britain, only 14 per cent of those interviewed said they would object.

Only 3 per cent were opposed to transplants on principle.



Driving in for petrol and groceries at the new Ultramar in Lowley, Oxford.

Village shopping moves to the petrol station

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

A chain of convenience stores, combining groceries with petrol sales, is being planned for English village locations by the oil company Ultramar in conjunction with Spar, the grocery group.

Two thirds of Ultramar's 600 petrol stations are in villages and it has been concerned about the economic survival of these service stations for some time.

Mr John Auld, Ultramar's deputy managing director, said: "The village grocery store has

a similar problem to the rural service station and we think that the marriage of these two units into one location will ensure their joint survival as a centre for the local community."

Many of Spar's 3,000 outlets are also in villages and as a

result both organizations have specialist knowledge about the problems of retailing in rural areas.

The outlets, called Ultramar, will number half a dozen by the end of the year.

The first six Ultramar's will be on sites owned by Ultramar.

Lorry rules broken

New regulations increasing the maximum weight of lorries on British roads from 32 tonnes to 38 tonnes have done nothing to stop overloading (Robin Young writes).

Four tenths of the foreign registered vehicles checked on Kent roads since the regulations came into effect have been

overloaded, in some instances by more than a third.

The Armitage report in 1980 estimated that up to one fifth of damage to roads is caused by overloading.

Fifty nine drivers from 11 countries have been prosecuted for 76 offences against the new regulations in Kent alone.

Customs man 'smuggled'

A customs official tried to smuggle 16 bottles of spirits into Britain, Warwick Crown Court was told yesterday.

But Harold Bruce's aircraft was diverted from Luton, where he was based, to Birmingham airport, Mr Peter Crane, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Bruce, aged 45, bought 19

bottles of spirits on a weekend trip to Spain, Mr Crane said.

He declared three of them at Birmingham airport and complained of stomach pains.

Mr Bruce, who denies evading duty, said that he gave the bottles to passengers because he could not afford the duty.

The hearing continues today.

A floating laboratory to follow Darwin

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A new ship to be named today which follow a long line of vessels used by scientists as floating laboratories since Charles Darwin's voyage to the Galapagos Islands.

The Royal Research Ship Charles Darwin has been floated out of dry dock at Appledore Shipbuilders into the Torridge estuary, North Devon, to be named by the Prince of Wales.

The 2,370-ton ship, costing £7,250,000, bristles with electronic and microcomputer aids for the biologists, chemists, geologists and physicists.

One unique feature of the ship, built for the Natural Environment Research Council, is that some permanent laboratories are built in but others will be constructed, when required, in a container and bolted on to a deck.

About half of the Darwin's voyages will be geophysical and geological expeditions, many of which will need the ship to trail several kilometres of hydrophones. Research by biologists will be the next most common; they will need nets for obtaining samples from great depths as well as the surface.

The ability of the vessel to minimize noise and vibration from engines and propeller, with the computers that record data against position and time, will open a new generation of oceanographic research.

Motorists advertise to win Shell prize

By Robin Young

A small, and probably misguided, increase in newspaper advertising is resulting from Shell's "Make Money" promotional campaign for its petrol.

Advertisements are beginning to appear, placed by motorists who have one half of notes which carry denominations up to £10,000 and are seeking those who have the elusive other half so that they can jointly claim the prize.

"If someone is advertising that they have the right-hand side of the note, you can bet it is the left-hand side that is the rare one," a Shell official said yesterday. "Losing vouchers are not even two a penny. They are free because drivers can claim one each time they visit one of our stations. No purchase is necessary."

Shell last ran a "Make

Money" promotion in 1966 when it was a big success, increasing sales by 80 per cent and forcing Esso to devise its "tiger in your tank" advertising.

Shell does not expect any repetition of the 1966 "Make Money" craze this time, although the top prizes have been increased from £100 to £10,000. There are a million and a quarter prizes, from 50p up, to be claimed by June 21, and the total prize money is believed to be about £1m.

It is too early to say how the promotion is affecting sales," Shell said, "but we are aware that there is more activity on the forecourts."

What is not clear is how much of the activity consists of motorists driving in, claiming and opening envelopes, and driving away in disappointment.

Social workers fly to Caribbean in drugs inquiry

Social workers from two London boroughs flew to the Caribbean island of St Vincent yesterday to investigate reports that 15 teenagers in council care were involved in cannabis smoking, glue sniffing, robbery, and violence.

The children in the care of Camden or Lewisham after being involved in court proceedings in London, were sent to the £350-a-week progressive reform school, Richmond Vale Academy, for a year.

Charlton play on after £159,678 tax debt offer

Charlton Football Club won another reprieve in the High Court yesterday when Mr Mark Hulyer, chairman of the club told the court that his Swiss-based company, Marwan had agreed to pay the club's tax debts of £159,678.

The case was adjourned until today.

The fourth division club, Stockport County, which has tax debts of £73,833 had its winding-up petition by the Inland Revenue struck out.

Skiers sceptical about expanding Aviemore

From Ronald Faux, Aviemore

Skiers at Aviemore, Scotland's principal ski centre, at the weekend were sceptical about the Government's guidelines for a doubling of the downhill ski capacity.

A constant stream of cars and coaches carrying skiers from England and southern Scotland wound its way up to the lifts on Cairn Gorm. By mid-morning a large upper car park nearest the lifts was full and a lower park was filling rapidly.

Mr Robert Clyde, manager of the chair lift company, was busy directing traffic and had little time to wonder what an increase to 10,000 on his ski slopes would mean, or comment on the Scottish Development Department's views. But it was clear from the long queues and crowded restaurants that Cairn Gorm was stretched to the limit.

A ski instructor objected to the way the argument about development had polarized skiers and conservationists when most hill users were sympathetic to some of the arguments on both sides.

He said: "I cannot see how it will be possible to spread beyond the present grounds without screams of protests, and doubling up the lifts capacity in the present ski areas simply would not work". Cairn Gorm

would look like an overcrowded Lowry with 10,000 people skiing on it.

He added: "Only four out of hundreds of high mountains in Scotland have been developed for skiing. So it is hard to suggest this is some massive threat to the peace of the countryside. Thousands of people enjoy skiing and they have rights as well."

Mr Fred Harper, principal of the Scottish Outdoor Training Centre at Glenmore Lodge, near Aviemore, who is a skier and a mountaineer, thought the two sides could be reconciled. The guidelines showed clearly the need to increase capacity on a fairly large scale yet on Cairn Gorm development would be limited by the existing restrictions.

The argument is clearly far from settled and skiers will continue to cast covetous eyes at Braemar, a mount neighbour of Cairn Gorm where there are eight large snowfields at ski runs of up to three miles. For the time being, they are classed as a "no go area" by the guidelines, although many believe that it is only slopes of such high potential that will attract the multi-million pound investment necessary for the next large expansion of Scottish skiing.

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Pretoria denies timetable has been agreed for Namibia settlement

From Michael Horanby, Johannesburg

South African officials expressed annoyance yesterday at what they consider to be premature reports, emanating mainly from Washington, which set out a stage-by-stage timetable for an internationally acceptable settlement in Namibia by the end of the year.

A number of South African newspapers, quoting Washington officials and other unspecified diplomatic sources, suggested that the peace plan envisaged the following steps:

- The 1,000 to 1,500 South African troops still estimated to be in southern Angola would be withdrawn over the next three weeks or so, after which the Angolan Government would announce that the conditions had been created for the departure of the 25,000 to 30,000 Cubans in Angola.
- The South African Government would, in turn, announce that as a result of the "pending departure" of the Cubans, it would begin implementing UN Security Council Resolution 435, and start running down its forces in Namibia.
- The United States would also announce that, with Lusaka's statement of intent on the removal of the Cubans, it

was now possible for Washington to open diplomatic relations with Angola.

● In accordance with Resolution 435, UNTAG, the special UN peacekeeping force, would then move into Namibia to monitor a ceasefire there between South African troops and Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organization) guerrillas, and supervise elections to an independent constituent assembly.

The whole process is envisaged as taking between eight and nine months.

Asked to comment on the reports, a South African Foreign Ministry official told *The Times* that it was far too early for South Africa to commit itself to an "artificial timetable" of this kind. "We are opposed to this sort of artificial grand design which raises expectations which it may not be possible to meet."

The settlement scenario would require concessions from both Angola and South Africa on the Cubans. Hitherto Pretoria has insisted that all the Cuban troops must be removed before a start can be made on implementing Resolution 435. They would now be asked instead to accept a statement of intent on the Cubans.

The Angolans, for their part, would have to acknowledge a de facto link between the Cubans and a Namibia settlement, something they have refused to do so far.

The reported timetable also glosses over the problem posed by the civil war between the MPLA government in Luanda and the South African-backed Unita rebels of Dr Jonas Savimbi, whose writ runs in much of east and south-east Angola.

It is presumed that a tacit element of the agreement reached between Angola and South Africa in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, on February 16 is an understanding that South African support for Unita will be scaled down, making a reconciliation between Unita and Luanda easier.

Another possible complicating factor is lingering doubt over Angola's ability to control the Swapo guerrillas.

South African concern on this point seems to have been allayed for the moment at a meeting in the southern Angolan bush last Saturday of the joint Pretoria-Lusaka monitoring commission set up in Lusaka.

Hostages face long ordeal

By Richard Dowden

After nearly a year of threats Unita, the Angolan rebel organization, has finally struck at one of the pillars of the Angolan economy by attacking the diamond mine at Kafunfu.

It appears that a brigade which has been moving north for several weeks attacked at 4am last Thursday and seized 75 foreign workers after a short gun battle with the Angolan Army unit assigned to protect the mine.

They occupied the Kafunfu township for about 24 hours and four or five houses were destroyed together with much of the transport, though the diamond dump and strangely the diamonds stored at the sorting houses were apparently untouched.

Kafunfu is the tiny headquarters of a widespread mining operation some 200 miles to the west of the main diamond mining areas. It is an outpost of the twentieth century in an ocean of African bush. Its only safety lay in its distance from the main Unita base about 700 miles to the south.

Mineworkers interviewed there last August expressed far more concern about a Unita raiding party which operated from Zaire than they did about

guerrillas making the long march from the south.

The guerrilla band was most likely to have been the brigade which has been making its way north for some time. It consists of about 2,000 men but estimates of the number of attackers at Kafunfu are between 800 and 1,000. It has a base about 100 miles north of Lusaka consisting of timber and thatch huts, a command post equipped with a sophisticated radio, a hospital and a football pitch.

Armed with Kalashnikovs, Chinese 12.7mm anti aircraft guns, Sam missiles and rocket launchers, the guerrilla band would have easily overwhelmed the Angolan Army unit and it will now be able to return south with the hostages acting as a shield.

Last year Unita took 64 Czechoslovak and 20 Portuguese hostages from a factory at Alto Catumbela and marched them to the Unita headquarters at Jamba near Mavinga. Thirty-eight of them, including women and children, were released in July but about 20 are still being held.

At first Unita demanded the release of the one Irish and six British mercenaries held in prison in Luanda since 1975 but

later dropped this demand when it became clear that the British and Angolan Governments were not interested in its deal.

Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, has always tried to remain on good terms with Western companies operating in Angola.

In the case of the diamond mines this is particularly ironic as De Beers, the South African multinational company which holds a virtual monopoly of world diamond production, has a small holding in Diamang the Angolan state-owned diamond company. It also controls Mining and Technical Services which employs the mining technicians.

South Africa is Dr Savimbi's main backer and provides it with its logistical and material support. The question is now whether the South Africans will or can prevent Unita upsetting their new accord with Angola.

The hostages face at least three weeks of travel through the scrub and bush, wading before dawn marching till sundown with a two-hour break in the heat of the day. Only one of the Czechoslovaks, a diabetic, died on the long march south.

Hundreds of actors sacked for striking

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Hundreds of Greek actors who staged a 24-hour strike for higher pay on Saturday lost their jobs when their employers, both state and privately-owned theatres, closed down and cancelled their contracts.

The actors' strike was called when the theatre owners rejected the communist-led Actors' Union demands for a 10 per cent salary rise, plus a 10 per cent family allowance. They offered instead the government-sanctioned index-linked 8.9 per cent.

Minutes before the strike was to take effect the Ministry of Labour invoked the compulsory arbitration procedures under which all strike action must cease to pending a ruling. When the actors defied the ban employers were told that under the law this amounted to a breach of contract.

The dispute took on strong political overtones when the Socialist Government accused the Actors' Union of siding with the Greek Communist Party (KKE) which was undermining the Government's incomes policy. The Actors' Union is led by Miss Emilia Ypsilanti, a Communist member of Parliament.

There are increasing signs in fact that KKE which had so far shown extraordinary tolerance towards the Government's tight-fisted pay policies, is now beginning to distance itself from these politically-costly practices in view of the elections for the European Parliament next June, which might yet be combined with early national elections.

The Communists now criticize the Government for invoking the compulsory arbitration procedures.

The strength of the Government's feeling on this issue was illustrated by the fact that while the state theatres are not involved in the dispute, they joined the private theatres in what the actors call a lock-out.

At the National Theatre in Athens on Sunday the performance was broken off soon after it began by an announcer who invoked "technical reasons". But Miss Ypsilanti leapt on the stage and cried out: "That is lie. They are not letting us perform."

Russia starts new SS20 rocket site

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union has begun building its first new missile site to target on Western Europe since the late President Brezhnev declared a moratorium on building such bases nearly two years ago. The Foreign Office disclosed this last night after Western diplomats had been briefed by United States officials at the recent meeting of Nato's Special Consultative Group.

The intelligence findings have come at a time when ironically Western governments have been hoping for better East-West relations in the wake of the change of leadership in Moscow.

But the sources point out that work on the site has started several months ago, probably around last August, about the time the late President Andropov made his last appearance in public.

The number of Soviet SS20 missiles, each of which has three warheads, has continued to rise since Brezhnev announced his moratorium, but this applied only to existing sites, where they have been replacing the older SS4s and SS5s.

Britain opposes EEC food price rises

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Britain stood firm against any increase in agricultural prices when EEC farm ministers met in Brussels yesterday. The meeting was the start of a series of negotiating sessions which are meant to save the Community from bankruptcy.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British Minister, argued that even proposed increases of 1.5 per cent for beef and sheep meat were more than the Community could afford. Given the fact that the "beef mountain" had nearly doubled in size last year, he said: "This is not a very sensible proposal."

He also argued that there was a case for price cuts on both milk and cereals, which are both products in heavy surplus in the Community. He emphasized that a price freeze on these products would last even longer than a year.

Although a number of countries supported his arguments, he was left on his own in rejecting the idea of getting rid

of "green" currency rates - a cross border system of taxes on agricultural imports and exports designed to protect farmers against currency fluctuations.

Recent anger among French farmers has been principally directed at these green rates, because they believe it gives unfair profit levels to British and West German farmers, who benefit from being paid in strong currencies.

At present, the Soviet Union has deployed a total of 378 SS20s, of which 243, or 749 warheads, have been targeted on Western Europe. The new site in the western districts of the Soviet Union will probably raise the total by nine missiles, or 27 independent warheads.

In a statement yesterday regretting the Soviet decision to start building new bases again, the Foreign Office also confirmed that the West has 25 comparable weapons now deployed.

"This number is planned to rise slowly over five years," the statement said, "but the deployment programme will be halted or reversed as soon as success in arms control negotiations warrants it."

It added: "To suggest that the deployment of more SS20s can be justified as a counterweight to Nato's first deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles is preposterous."

Apart from the SS20s, the Russians also appear now to be deploying their SS12 and new SS22 shorter-range missiles further forward in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, the statement went on.

● PARIS: An invitation by El Salvador to the European nations to send independent observers to its forthcoming presidential elections next month (March) was the only area of disagreement in wide-ranging foreign policy discussions held by the 10 member countries of the European Community in Paris yesterday (Diana Geddes writes).

Britain believed it would be a good idea to send observers, as did Belgium and Holland. However, France, Ireland, Denmark and Greece had all expressed strong reservations.

McGovern in New Hampshire

Lively ghost of the protest generation

From Nicholas Ashford, Manchester, New Hampshire

It could have almost been a scene from *The Big Chill*. The audience were mainly in their early 40s, members of the 1960s protest generation approaching middle age. On stage at the Palace Theatre was Arlo Guthrie, troubadour of that bygone era, singing songs like "Alice's Restaurant" and "Blowing in the Wind".

Joining him on stage was another ghost from those days, Mr George McGovern, the man who led the drive to get the United States out of Vietnam and who went on to suffer the most humiliating defeat in a presidential election at the hands of Mr Richard Nixon in 1972.

But despite the ridicule which was heaped upon him last autumn when he announced his decision to seek the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, Mr McGovern has suddenly become a very real factor in the campaign.

No one is poking fun at him any more. His third place showing in the Iowa caucuses a week ago has demonstrated that his unvarnished brand of liberalism (which had become a dirty word in the political lexicon of the 1980s) still has appeal.

But it is not just his attacks on the Reagan Administration's defence budget or his unashamed espousal of New Deal economic policies which is provoking renewed interest in his candidacy. It is also the calm, coherent way he has been putting his views across.

Clearly aware that he cannot hope to challenge Mr Walter Mondale's front-runner position, Mr McGovern has concentrated more on discussing issues than running after votes. As a result his campaign speeches have been more relaxed, good-natured and persuasive (and more warmly applauded) than those of his seven rivals.

For the past week Mr McGovern has been attracting crowds and inspiring enthusiasm as he has trudged around New Hampshire trying to drum up support for today's critical primary election.

Unlike the other candidates he is not accompanied by a posse of secret servicemen or a retinue of aides and hangers-on. He travels only with a driver and his press agent and sometimes his wife. Since Iowa there is also an accompanying troupe of television camera teams and newspaper reporters.

Not long ago most American journalists were writing off Mr McGovern's decision to enter the 1984 race as an attempt to salvage his political reputation. Now they are talking about the "McGovern phenomenon".

"No one is likely to walk away from this race with more respect and affection than George McGovern", wrote David Broder, the distinguished political commentator of the *Washington Post*. "By stating his views with such candour, and offering himself with such self-deprecating charm, McGovern has gained himself an honoured place for himself at the San Francisco Democratic convention, and the prospect of a major position if



Still game: Senator John Glenn finishing a game of bowls before going into battle in today's Democratic primary in New Hampshire

on. He travels only with a driver and his press agent and sometimes his wife. Since Iowa there is also an accompanying troupe of television camera teams and newspaper reporters.

Not long ago most American journalists were writing off Mr McGovern's decision to enter the 1984 race as an attempt to salvage his political reputation. Now they are talking about the "McGovern phenomenon".

"No one is likely to walk away from this race with more respect and affection than George McGovern", wrote David Broder, the distinguished political commentator of the *Washington Post*. "By stating his views with such candour, and offering himself with such self-deprecating charm, McGovern has gained himself an honoured place for himself at the San Francisco Democratic convention, and the prospect of a major position if

there should be a Democratic administration in 1985."

Despite the attention which Mr McGovern is receiving, no one (probably not even himself) expects his candidacy to survive much beyond the Massachusetts primary on March 13 (Massachusetts was the only state he carried in 1972). The question which still remains unanswered is: Why did he decide to run in the first place?

McGovern is deliberately ambiguous on this point, although he insists that he genuinely wants to become President.

When asked the question, he usually starts by replying with a joke. "I am the only candidate without a job at present. Besides, my apartment burnt down last May so I don't even have a place to live."

But undoubtedly the main need that house at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

reason why he is running is to focus attention on what he believes should be the real issues of the campaign.

"Last September I was the only candidate calling for the immediate withdrawal of our troops from Lebanon", he told the audience at the Palace Theatre. "If my advice had been taken 264 or our boys would still be alive today."

Apart from his espousal of dovish foreign policies and liberal economic programmes, Mr McGovern has also sought to direct the Democrats' fire at President Reagan rather than at each other.

"People say that Mr Reagan is a nice guy. But I don't think it is very nice to allocate \$40 billion (\$27.5 billion) to the MX missile, which we don't need, and then knock three million kids out of the school lunch programme," he said to loud applause.

France still refuses to compensate UK hauliers

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

France is still refusing to compensate British lorry firms held up in last week's blockade, despite continued pressure by the British Government.

Meanwhile, French roads were reported to be clear yesterday with blockages remaining only in the Brenner Pass between Austria and Italy, where Austrian drivers took retaliatory action against the French over the weekend.

Apart from about £160 paid out to some lorry drivers individually, the French Government has so far resisted claims from Britain's hauliers which could add up to £3m-£5m for delays and frustrated journeys.

Mr Freddie Plaskett, director-general of the Road Haulage Association, met Mr Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, last night, and the Freight Transport Association said it was also continuing to press the Government to seek compensation from the French.

● ROME: Signor Claudio Signorile, the Italian Minister of Transport, has condemned the continued block of the Brenner Pass by lorry drivers, saying it is a protest that is no longer justified. He called on the men to send representatives to talk to him and to other members of the Government (Peter Nichols writes).

In a speech here yesterday he said that the Government had abided by the agreement worked out two weeks ago with the Italian lorry drivers' union. He added that on Saturday the cabinet had agreed as well to bring Italian customs arrangements into line with those adopted by the European Community.

● INNSBRUCK: Lorry drivers blocking the Brenner and other border crossings from Austria to Italy pledged to continue their strike as an ultimatum to the Italian Government passed. (AP reports).

EEC condemns Swiss levies

Brussels (AP) - The European Community Commission expressed concern about special motorway taxes for lorries and cars that were approved in a nationwide referendum in Switzerland on Sunday.

The levies were discriminatory and would be discussed shortly in Bern, it said. From next year foreign cars must pay a 30-franc (£9.50) annual fee and lorries over 3.5 tons between 500 and 3,000 francs.

Swedes lob grenades in hunt for submarines

Stockholm (AP) - The Swedish Navy hurled hand grenades and fired machine guns into the water last night in the eighteenth day of operations against suspected alien submarines and frogmen inside the Karlskrona naval base.

This followed the detonation of an explosive charge late on Sunday at the entrance to the base from which foreign vessels and land traffic are forbidden.

Regular signals were still coming up of underwater activity that should not be going on, a defence staff spokesman said. "We may be dealing with a task force of several mini submarines alien divers and a mother submarine waiting outside."

Rebels hinder Kabul reforms

Delhi (AP) - Kabul has been unable to implement fully its land reforms programme because of the "undeclared war" being waged by the rebels with US backing. President Babrak Karmal told officials.

Feudalism had been defeated and the back of the big landlords broken since the 1978 coup, he said. The land reforms would go through but by persuasion and not by forcing them down farmers' throats.

Death demand

Yaounde (AP) - Military prosecutors asked for the death penalty for former Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahidjo and life prison terms for two of his alleged co-conspirators in a plot last year to overthrow the Biya Government. Ahidjo, who lives in France, is being tried in absentia.

Fish waste

Esbjerg (AP) - Denmark's fishermen say they are staying in port until the EEC rules on how much consumer fish can be caught with industrial fish, such as sprat and sardines, are changed. To avoid fines they have to throw too many herring, cod and haddock over the side.

Activist free

Durban (Reuters) - A leading Indian political activist, Billy Nair, released yesterday after 20 years in jail was met by his wife, well-wishers and police, some in riot gear. Mr Nair, jailed for being a member of the outlawed African National Congress, spent 18 years on Robben Island.

Peace quest

Addis Ababa (AFP) - President Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, opening the Organization of African Unity council of ministers here, said the escalation of conflicts and misunderstandings had made the yearning for peace even more pressing.

Sadr backed

Nouakchott (AFP) - Mauritania has recognized the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) set up eight years ago by the Polisario guerrillas in Western Sahara. It is the twenty-seventh African country to do so.

Lesotho poll

Maseru (Reuters) - The Lesotho Government is to spend about £2.5m preparing for general elections this year. The Finance Minister, Mr Kheiso Rakhetla told Parliament. Lesotho has had no elections since Chief Leabua Jonathan seized power in 1970.

Madrid chaos

Madrid - A total shutdown of Madrid's Metro underground system led to traffic chaos in the capital all day yesterday. The workers who have rejected a 6.5 per cent pay rise offer, defied a government order to maintain a minimal service in peak hours.

Soldiers hurt

Mombasa (AP) - Twenty-six men of the Royal Irish Rangers were injured at the weekend when a lorry carrying them rolled over as the driver dodged a pedestrian. Seven were taken to hospital but were said to be satisfactory.

Killer landslide

Jakarta (Reuters) - Twenty-five people were feared dead in a landslide caused by monsoon rains in the Simalungun district of north Sumatra. Many were gathering for a wake in a house when the landslide struck.

Panama runner

Panama City (AFP) - Panama's ruling PRD party has nominated an army-backed economist, Señor Nicolas Ardito Barletta, as its candidate for President in the election on May 6.

Barbecued rats

Corrientes, Argentina, (AFP) - The custodian of a small zoo near here has been arrested for barbecuing seven rare cabaias, the world's largest rodents from the zoo.

Another normal day in Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The French language Beirut newspaper *L'Orient le Jour* got it about right yesterday morning. "Normal day in Beirut", its front page headline said. "Six dead, eleven wounded".

Yesterday was a normal day too. By early evening, shelling along the capital's front line had killed three people - one of them a 10-year-old boy - and wounded another 19. Another ceasefire, it was said, was in the offing.

But Mr Rafik Hariri, the Saudi negotiator between Lebanon and Syria, had delayed his return to Beirut after being summoned to talk with King Fahd in Riyadh. So whatever truce he might have been working on was postponed again, with the usual results.

So heavy was the artillery fire across the line during the morning that even the French troops controlling the Museum crossing point - one of whom died on Sunday under mortar fire - were forced to close the only road between east and west Beirut.

As always in a vacuum here, and the withdrawal of the US Marines on Sunday left quite a vacuum behind them, the Beirut press has been left to supply the substance of political progress. In the leftist paper *Al-Law* former President Eranjeh, Syria's closest ally in northern Lebanon, quotes President Amin Gemayel as saying that the unofficial peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel is but "a corpse in the mortuary awaiting burial".

Beirut state radio hinted that Mr Gemayel was now committed to the treaty's abrogation and that the Lebanese President might soon meet President Assad of Syria. There was no



Showing the flag: A Lebanese soldier patrolling the former US Marine base near Beirut airport.

public comment from Mr Gemayel himself. Nor, ominously, was there any word from the Christian militias who theoretically support him.

There was certainly in Beirut yesterday about only one thing: Israel's increased interest in the city now that the American Marines have left. For almost an hour during the morning, four high-altitude Israeli jets repeatedly over the abandoned US fortifications around Beirut airport which have now been taken over by Shia Muslim militiamen.

By midday, the sky over the capital was filled with circular white trails before the jets turned south for home. For their part, the militias believe it is only a matter of time before the Israelis decide to bomb the old Marine base at the airport.

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Husain, Arafat in secret session

From Christopher Walker, Amman

Strict secrecy surrounded details of the controversial tête-à-tête which took place over lunch at the palace and was followed by a further session of the larger negotiating teams which met for four hours on Sunday.

But officials from both sides spoke with guarded optimism of the cordial atmosphere which has surrounded the discussions so far. It was felt that, following the civil war inside the PLO, which had deprived Mr Arafat of his military option, he may now be freer from the constraints which prevented any agreement last year.

Both the King and the PLO team seem to be in agreement on opposition to President Reagan's peace plan, announced in September 1982. The Jordanian monarch has emphasized repeatedly in recent months that he regards the initiative as "frozen" because the United States had not fulfilled the condition of preventing the building of more

Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

The summit in Amman is taking place amid some of the strictest security seen in the Jordanian capital because of the fierce hostility to any successful outcome which has been expressed both from Syria and from splinter groups inside the PLO such as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Allia, the national Jordanian airline, has imposed unprecedented searching procedures. At Athens yesterday, passengers heading for Amman were subjected to rigorous extra checks on board the plane by four Jordanian security men. The station manager said the measures had been imposed on all Alia flights in recent weeks following a foiled sabotage attempt at Paris.

Mr Arafat, who was spotted yesterday sporting a pistol at his waist, is being housed in style in the Jordanian monarch's heavily-guarded guest palace.

Punjab leaders held in Delhi after demanding autonomy

From Our Correspondent, Delhi

Despite police precautionary measures the former Punjab Chief Minister, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, was able to reach Delhi yesterday disguised as a lorry driver, and burn Article 25 of the Indian Constitution which lumps Sikhs together with Hindus. He was remanded in custody till March 10.

There was also a ritual burning of the constitution in Chandigarh. Nine Akali Sikh leaders were arrested. Under Indian law a person burning the constitution can be sentenced up to three years' imprisonment.

The burning of the constitution is the second stage of the Akali Sikh agitation which has been going on for the past one and a half years. The protesters are demanding greater autonomy for Punjab and a court order on the sharing of rivers

waters between Punjab and Haryana.

The Akalis are also insisting that they are a separate nation and that they should have a separate basic law; hence their resentment against being lumped together with the Hindus.

In Delhi yesterday Hindus protested against the protesters and the burning of the constitution and all markets and shops, including those owned by Sikhs and Muslims, were closed. The capital appeared deserted although public transport was not affected.

Delhi is awash with rumours that Mrs Indira Gandhi's Government was poised for a commando-type operation in the Golden Temple, the Sikh shrine at Amritsar, where the extremists are said to have taken refuge after indiscriminate killings of Hindus.

Hatred masks fear in two Indian states

From Kuldip Najar, Delhi

A visitor to the north Indian states of Punjab and Haryana soon tastes the tension there - raw, open and ominous. The Hindus and the Sikhs are distant neighbours now.

People are fear-stricken and horrified and many among them still wear the snarling mob mask. Burnt-out religious places, destroyed houses and looted properties tell the story of the hysteria that has gripped the two communities in both states in the past few days.

The death toll in one week alone hit 50. Details by detail, the accounts reflected the wild rage that had galvanized members of the two communities into warring groups.

I heard different versions of killings and destruction, the Hindus blaming the Sikhs and vice versa. But impartial observers did not corroborate these reports. It was obvious that the Hindus had fomented the trouble in Haryana to avenge the suffering of their coreligionists in Punjab and the Sikhs, in turn, had stoked the fires in Punjab, where the Sikh extremists are still indulging in casual killings.

Often the Government has been caught napping in Punjab, where Delhi rules directly through Mr B. D. Pandey, the Governor, and in Haryana, where it is in constant touch with Mr Bhajan Lal, the Chief Minister.

There was no doubt that the governments on both sides had been inert and complacent and the authorities had connived at the doings in Haryana as much as they had done in Punjab. Many people told me the names of officials - and politicians - involved.

Most worrisome is the unabating anger in both communities. They are uncertain about their future and realize that they have to live together but they are unwilling to speak out against the excesses of their own community. They give the impression of being with the lawless and acting in a manner which they think will pay political dividends.

Philippine teachers stage mass walkout

From Keith Dalton, Manila

School teachers staged a mass walkout in the Philippine capital yesterday in defiance of anti-strike laws and tough warnings from President Marcos that legal action will be taken against them.

The Ministry of Education reported that 17,000 teachers had walked out in Manila with similar walkouts reported in other cities.

The mass action could spread in the next few days with calls for a nationwide walkout by elementary and high school teachers. They are demanding an immediate 40 per cent wage increase and improved conditions.

Teachers are banned from holding strikes and forming trade unions under the constitution and so they are on "mass leave".

Of all government employees teachers are among the lowest paid, receiving a basic monthly wage of about £45. They want that raised to £90 a month plus allowances that would more than double their salary.

Few buyers for Franco newspapers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

The liquidation of Franco's National Movement newspaper chain continued yesterday when eight more of the 21 dailies to be sold this year were offered to the highest bidder. Another six were closed last year.

Once a potent propaganda tool, the newspaper chain is being sold off link by link for two good reasons: most of the papers lose money and, as a group, they have embarrassed the post Franco authorities because of their history.

The Government proposes to get rid of the newspaper chain by May, even if it means closing some papers for lack of buyers.

So far this year, only three newspapers offered for sale, found buyers. They were *Gaceta Regional* of Salamanca, which lost 17m pesetas (£78,000) in 1982; *Nueva Espana* of Huesca, in the Pyrenees, with losses of 14.5m pesetas in 1982 and *La Nueva Espana*, of the northern city of Oviedo, with 1982 profits of 13.5m pesetas.



Hope eternal: Bob Hope and his wife Dolores, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at the "Gala for Hope" fundraising event for the National Parkinson Foundation, attended by more than 1,400 people in Miami, Florida.

Basques vote against terrorism

From Richard Wigg, Vitoria

A rise of almost 10 per cent in the total poll in Sunday's Basque general election was widely interpreted yesterday as a huge vote by the Basque people against terrorism and for their own institutions of self government under Spain's democratic constitution as more people voted for the parties which denounced terrorism.

Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, was among those publicly recognizing the significance of almost 42 per cent of the total poll won by the Basque Nationalist Party which increased its share of the poll by 100,000 votes compared with the first Basque autonomous elections four years ago, despite spiralling terrorism as the campaign ended.

Their voters preferred quietly to endorse four years creating

the region's autonomous institutions though they all oppose violence by the armed separatists of ETA.

Señor González was also able to congratulate his own Socialist Party which, with 23 per cent of the votes cast doubled its feeble 1980 performance.

The Socialist vote, helped by an upsurge of sympathy after Thursday's killing by a break-away faction of ETA of Señor Enrique Casas Vila, a leading candidate, was significant not only in the struggle against terrorism.

The radical coalition failed to make the breakthrough in its attempt to elect a leader of the Basque working class, despite the local Socialists having to bear responsibility for rising unemployment in the heavily industrialized Basque region during the 14 months of

Socialist government in Madrid. The coalition dropped 17,000 votes compared to the October 1982 general election.

The coalition, which obtained 11 seats, the same number as in 1980, though the Basque Parliament has been enlarged to 75 members instead of 60, yesterday indicated none of its members will take their seats. This follows ETA's line that the home rule achieved is inadequate.

This means that though the Basque Nationalist Party advanced with 32 MPs it lacks a working majority this time. Negotiations are likely between the parties. While some Socialists would like a coalition, the chairman of the Basque Nationalist Party suggested yesterday it might be better to govern alone "than in bad company".

Disused synagogue gutted on eve of neo-Nazi trial

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A former synagogue in Düsseldorf was set on fire and gutted over the weekend on the eve of the trial in Frankfurt yesterday of eight leading neo-Nazis accused of torturing a former member of their group.

Police suspect right-wing extremists of setting the disused synagogue on fire. The synagogue and 12 other buildings were daubed with swastikas, SS symbols, a star of David and the word "Jew".

The little brick building, last used as a synagogue in 1909, was used as a garage for two cars, but a number of local residents had proposed turning it into a memorial to the persecution of the Jews.

On trial in Frankfurt are the leaders of a group called the Action Front of the National Socialists/National Activists.

recently proscribed by the Minister of the Interior.

It is led by Michael Kühnen, aged 23, a former Bundeswehr lieutenant who has already served a prison sentence for inciting racial hatred.

Eight of his supporters are charged with causing bodily harm to Herr Andreas Sachsse, aged 21, a former supporter who kept notes on the activities of the Action Front.

Meanwhile, *Der Spiegel* reported yesterday that neo-Nazis in West Berlin had set up meeting points in the ruins of the underground bunkers built by Hitler at the end of the war.

Swastikas and antisemitic slogans have been found daubed on the thick concrete walls of the labyrinth of tunnels and shelters under a disused station.

Decisive battle looms for Karen rebels

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

The decisive battle in Burma's long campaign against Karen rebels in mountainous areas bordering Thailand appears to be imminent.

Government troops are reported to be dug in within about 300 yards of the outskirts of Maw Pokay, the rebels' main base, after heavy artillery bombardment of the town.

The Karens are suffering heavy casualties in clashes with the better-armed Burmese who also have greatly superior numbers. Some Burmese have been killed and wounded by land mines put down by the Karens on approaches to Maw Pokay, which for years has been a key point in the rebels' economic lifeline as well as a big military base.

The Karens largely finance their rebellion with taxes on

cross-border trade conducted from Maw Pokay. Its loss would be a crippling blow to them. However, they do not appear to be proposing to conduct a long defence of the town. Instead they are fighting a hit and run guerilla operation, making daring raids behind the Burmese lines to attack artillery positions and communications posts.

Some other ethnic minorities also opposed to the Rangoon Government are helping the Karens with men and supplies. Branches in Bangkok of Anglican, Baptist and Seven Day Adventist churches have launched a campaign to raise money to buy food, medicine, clothing and building materials for more than 10,000 Karen civilian refugees who have fled into Thailand.

Priests seek conciliation

Manila (Reuters) - Three Roman Catholic priests and six church workers accused of murder are willing to hold talks with the Philippine Government for an amicable settlement of their case, one of the priests said yesterday.

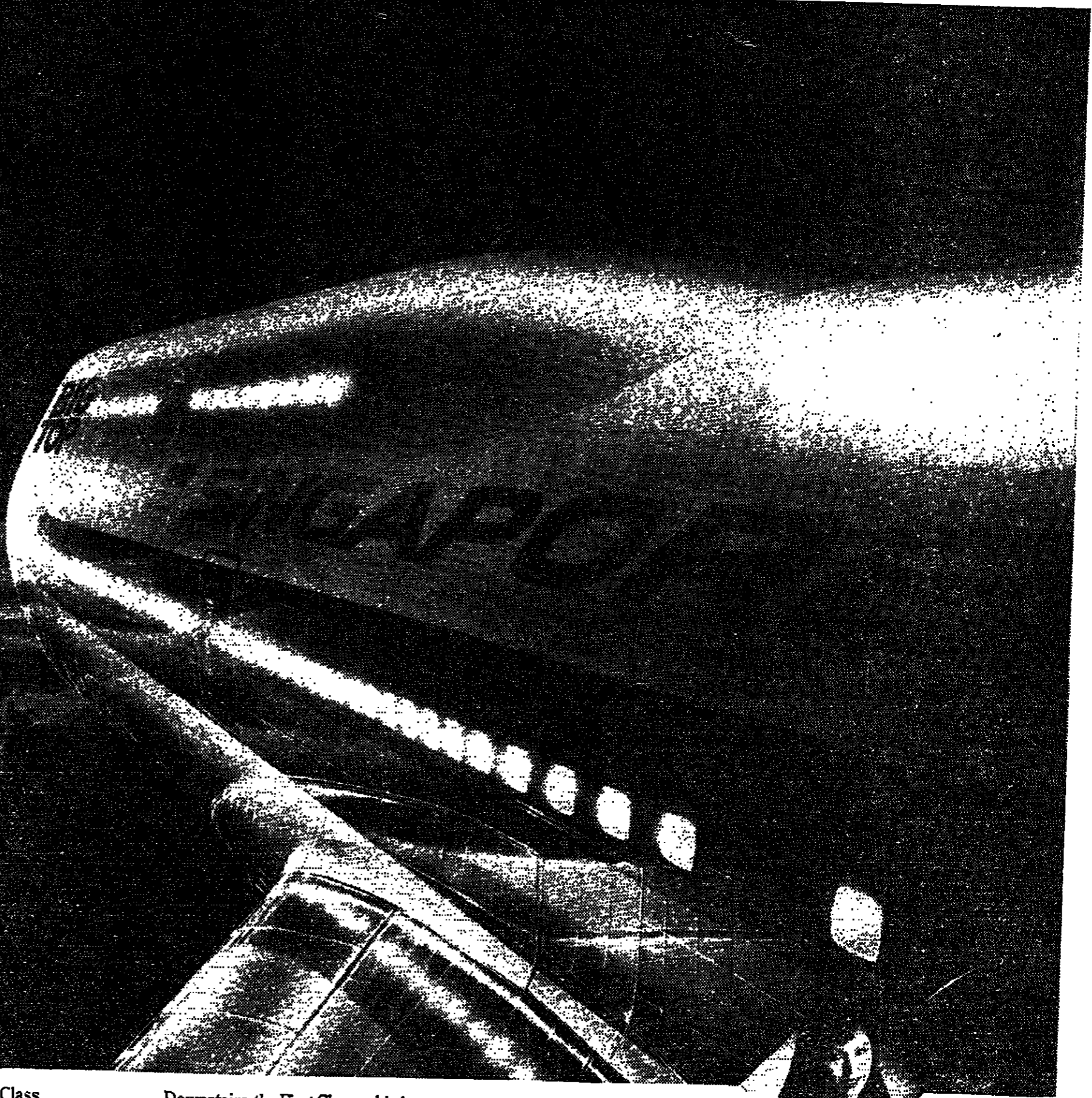
"We are willing to open talks with the Government but there are certain things that are not negotiable," Father Brian Gore, an Australian said. "The least

they can do is withdraw the case against us."

Father Gore was speaking by telephone from Bacolod provincial jail where he, Father Niall O'Brien, an Irishman, and Father Vincente Dangan, a Filipino, and the church workers, are being held.

The have pleaded not guilty to charges of killing Mayor Pablo Sola and four other men in Kabankalan in 1982.

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Brazilian military chiefs alarmed at growing clamour for direct vote

As pressures for the next President to be chosen by direct, rather than indirect elections grows in intensity, whipped up by an opposition scenting power, worried Brazilian military chiefs of staff are pressing President João Figueiredo to bring the succession issue back under control before it is too late.

The military chiefs are acutely concerned that events in Brazil could follow those of Argentina, with an increasingly unpopular military being chased from power, and consequently being held responsible for mistakes made during the 20 years they have been running the country.

Many opposition politicians exploiting growing divisions in the Government and the increasing weakness of the President, are attempting to draw parallels with Argentina which do not really exist. The Brazilian military have very little blood on their hands. However, they are very vulnerable to accusations of having enriched themselves in positions of power over the past few years. And they and the technocrats they appointed to run the economy, are certainly unpopular. Last week, President Figueiredo summoned the four candidates of the official PDS party to Brasília, and told them to play the game by the existing

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo rules, and not press for direct elections.

Two who stand to win under a system whereby Members of Parliament, and state representatives make the choice next January, were happy to acquiesce. But the other two, including Vice-President Aureliano Chaves, have now joined the growing opposition chorus in favour of a direct election later this year. They have concluded that their only chance of winning is to appeal to a wider electorate.

The Government is concerned that a direct election would almost certainly mean that a radical politician, such as Deputy Ulysses Guimarães, from the left of the PMDB or even worse, Leonel Brizola, Governor of Rio de Janeiro state, would win the contest.

The opposition has been organizing demonstrations in favour of direct elections, and more than a quarter of a million attended one in São Paulo at the end of last month, leading the Government to conclude gloomily that the left has now gained control of the streets. Three hundred thousand people attended the latest demonstration in Belo Horizonte last week. This was by far the largest so far, and was particularly significant because Belo Horizonte, capital of the key state of Minas Gerais, the

political heart of Brazil, is only a third of the size of São Paulo.

A Bill to amend the constitution and permit the next elections to be direct has been placed before Congress, and is due to be voted on early in April. With the recent conversion of Aureliano Chaves to the idea of direct elections, the Government is concerned that there might now be a two-thirds majority in favour, at least in the Lower House. But a procedure might be found to postpone or even avert the vote.

It is not true to claim, as the opposition does, that public opinion is massively in favour of direct elections. But most Brazilians now want more radical change than that most proposed by the Government, which would like the Interior Minister, Senhor Mario Andreazza, to win.

He is a close associate of the President and his success would mean that present policies are continued for at least four more years.

As a sop to the growing pressure, the subsequent presidential election, in the late 1980s, will certainly be made direct, and the next presidential term will probably be two years shorter than the present six years. But these reforms may prove to be too little, too late.



Fresh start: Señor Caputo (centre) and members of his delegation at the Palais des Nations in Geneva yesterday.

End of Argentina's long night

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

"The night in Argentina is over", Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, told the 43-nation UN Human Rights Commission yesterday. During that long night, terror had spread among the people, as political terrorism led, in turn, to the military Government unleashing a "terrible repressive action in which every means was permissible. ... By fighting the Devil with the Devil's weapons, Argentina became Hell."

"Thanks to a number of

tremendous failures in the most various fields, and to the unopposable push of the political forces of the country", he said - his only implicit reference to the Falklands war - "the military regime was forced to abandon power and our people recovered its sovereignty."

Annulment of "an abhorrent amnesty law passed by the military regime to cover up its own excesses and the crimes of some terrorists" was now enabling the machinery of justice to operate without hindrance.

Señor Caputo said that the new Government would abolish the "draconian sanctions", including the death penalty, introduced by the military junta to curb ideological dissent.

The minister thanked the UN High Commission for Refugees and friendly countries for assisting Argentines who had gone into exile and who could now "return to shape our common destiny".

Soviet block scare at reports of Aids

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The mysterious killer disease Aids that has struck down hundreds of homosexuals in the West, has hit the Soviet block. Two cases - an African and a Slovak - have been reported in Czechoslovakia and now Poland too has taken fright.

The illness, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, has so far baffled doctors and immunological specialists although certain high risk groups including homosexuals, some exceptionally active heterosexuals, drug addicts using intravenous injection and Haitians have been identified. Originally discovered on a large scale in the United States, it spread to Western Europe and is now moving eastwards.

The Polish Institute of Hygiene has issued a special leaflet setting out the main symptoms of the disease so that doctors can make a speedy diagnosis. Blood donor stations are to take special measures to ensure that donors with Aids do not offer their blood.

The director of the sanitary inspection unit of the health ministry, Dr Jan Sluchowski, told the newspaper *Zycie Warszawy* yesterday that no Aids cases had been reported in Poland. But other doctors at the Hygiene Institute point out that the level of diagnosis is currently so low - Aids symptoms could often be confused with other ailments - that Aids may already have reached the country but be undetected.

The illness has the effect of lowering the body's defences against other diseases.

The state of Polish hospitals - deprived for years of adequate investment for drugs, equipment and buildings - is such that the danger of cross infection is already high. Cramped conditions, poorly sterilized syringes and other factors mean that patients sometimes enter hospital with one illness and leave with another. A mysterious disease like Aids is therefore a real peril.

There are no official estimates of the number of homosexuals in Poland but there is certainly a large community in Warsaw, meeting in two or three main cafes. Unlike the Soviet Union, homosexuality is not against the law in Poland.

Rapier deal

Ankara - Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, began talks here today at finalizing the deal, signed last July, for Turkey's acquisition from Britain of 36 Rapier anti-aircraft missiles costing roughly £200m.

French left loses another bastion

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The rout of the French left in local by-elections continues and M. Mitterrand's popularity remains at an all-time low for any President under the Fifth Republic. Another important left-wing bastion, Dragunian in the Var, fell to the right on Sunday, after 18 years of uninterrupted rule by the Socialist Senator-Mayor, M. Edouard Solaud.

The apparent attempt on M. Solaud's life last Tuesday, when he was shot and seriously wounded in the shoulder by two unidentified men, was not enough to bring him the few hundred extra votes needed to retain the town hall. He lost by 316 votes to the Gaullist RPR candidate, M. Jean-Paul Clausures, in a high turnout of more than 38 per cent of the 18,000 electorate.

M. Solaud, who is 73 and has used a pacemaker for a number of years, issued an emotional appeal from his hospital bed, which was telephoned through to potential voters, saying: "They tried to kill me, you know... on Sunday, the fate of Dragunian is at stake. Do not fail in your duty."

Another municipal by-election in the Mediterranean port of La Seyne-sur-Mer, also in the Var, ended in confusion on Sunday, after apparent irregularities were discovered at one of the polling booths. But for that it looks as if the right would again have wrested control of the town hall from the ruling Communist-Socialist alliance.

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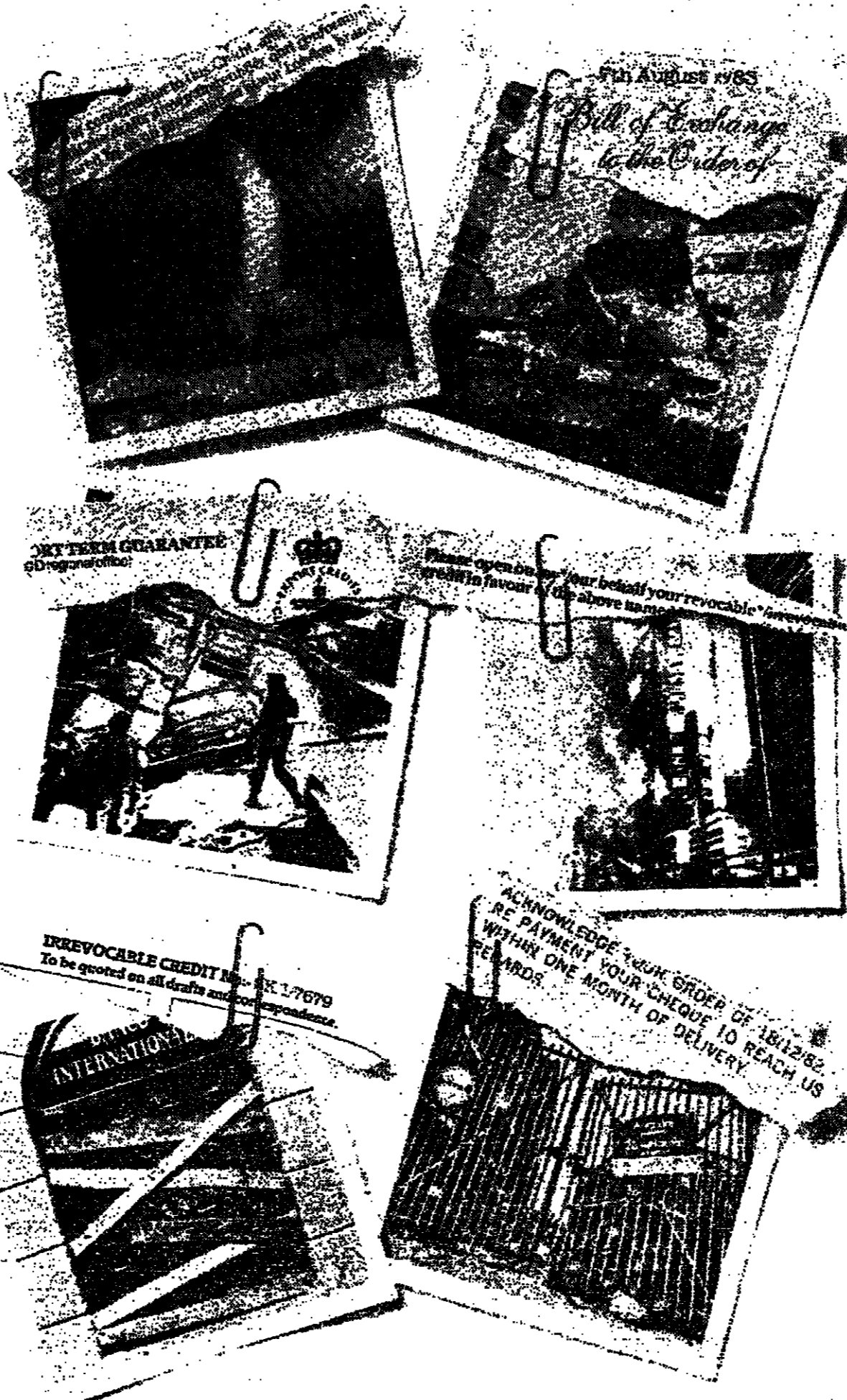
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Kenyans embarrassed by unused power plant

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

A big industrial plant to manufacture power and potable alcohol and a range of chemical products from molasses, a by-product of Kenya's sugar industry, has now been standing idle at Kisumu, on the shores of Lake Victoria, for the past two years.

The plant, with its storage tanks and processing towers dominating the skyline on the outskirts of Kisumu, has cost £60m so far. But development of its final stages stopped when the Kenya Government, the majority shareholder, decided it could not increase its investment any further to provide the estimated £15m needed to complete the project.

Valuable machinery, including large standby generators to provide electricity and a sophisticated installation to purify water from Lake Victoria, has therefore been lying idle and unused. In the absence of costly and sophisticated maintenance, much of the machinery is likely to have deteriorated.

The plant is an embarrassment to everyone involved, but there appear to be no plans either to complete it or to dismantle it.

Afghanistan: Hassan Kakar



Prisoners of conscience

By Caroline Moorehead
Hassan Kakar, head of the department of history at Kabul University and author of many publications on Afghan history, is serving an eight-year prison sentence for counter-revolutionary offences and for "forming an unlawful association".

Professor Kakar, who received his post-graduate education at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, was one of eight university teachers to be arrested by the Afghan security police, the Khad, on March 21, 1982. His trial was held in camera in May, 1983.

The arrests came after staff and students had expressed concern about the growing number of Russian teachers on the campus, and about earlier widespread arrests of students.

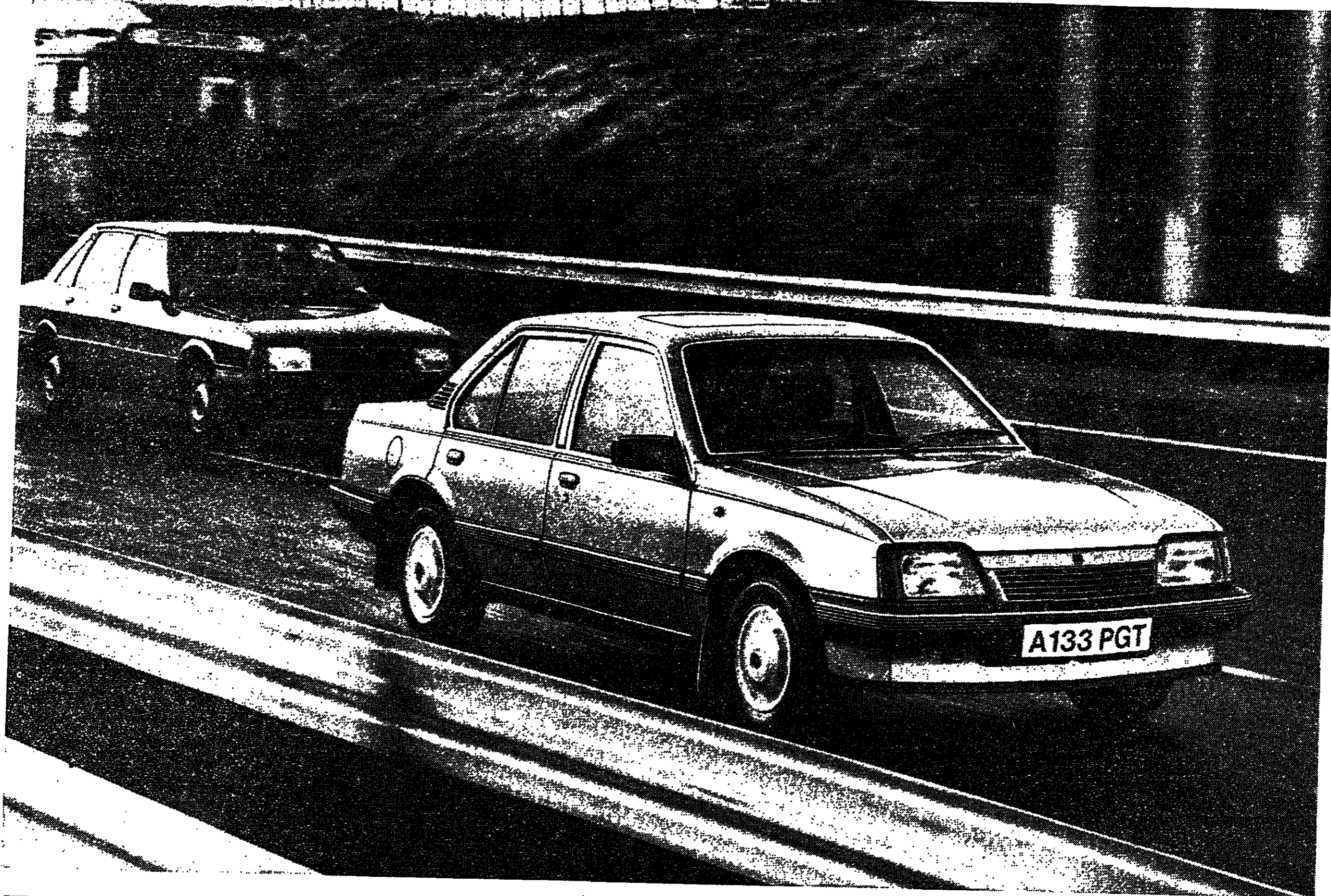
There had also apparently been pressure on the teachers to join the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the PDPA.

Professor Kakar was denied access to a lawyer both during his detention and later at his trial. No family visits were permitted until the trial was over. He is known, however, to have denied all charges made against him.

Father Francis Xavier Zhu Shnde, S. J., subject of the prisoner of conscience column on October 4, 1983, has died in a labour camp in Anhui province, Central China. He was 70.



Professor Kakar: Denied access to lawyer.



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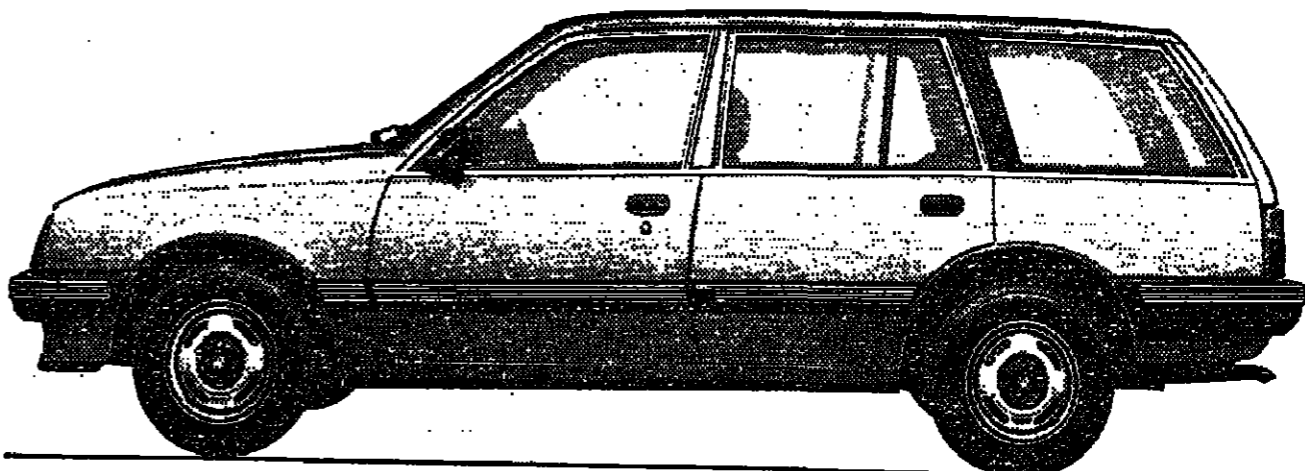
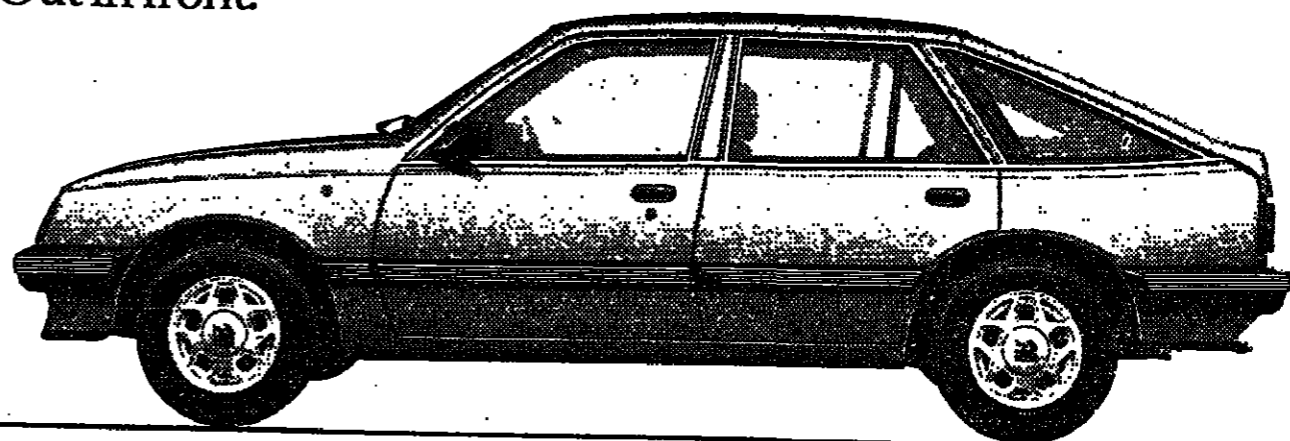
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THE ARTS

Television

The body at war

Conquest of the Parasites (Horizon, BBC 2) sounded like a horror film showing the local Odeon and, in some respects, that was what it was. Worms of more than 13 inches, and with names of a similar length, were pulled out of human bodies like string from a doll: blind mouths, gaping open, rose up in the intestinal tract: they clustered under the skin, forming large and spongy lumps.

The point was made almost at once: this was a programme about those parasites which dwell in the human body and against which there are still no effective remedies. Six hundred million people suffer from hook-worms: these are the ones which hold on to the intestines with their teeth, and live off blood. Malaria, carried by parasites, kills a million people each year. The list of diseases stretches on and on: sleeping sickness, elephantiasis, river blindness. ... It seems that there is some chance of vaccines being developed to exterminate

these creatures, but the drug companies are not willing to manufacture them: there is more profit to be made out of tranquilizers.

Certainly *Horizon* provides an image of the natural world quite different from that generally offered. The human frame seems to be simply a map of warring kingdoms, in which the parasite is "kill or be killed". And just as the electron microscope the body seems to be a vessel of disease and corruption so, on a global scale, the programme showed that the battle to ward off destruction is now being lost in several areas of the world. It may be wrong to conclude that programmes of this kind are reverting to a darker view of the world; but perhaps these pictures of serpents and their thriving spawn, even if they are generated by computers or developed by micro-photography, are more influential than we care to think.

Peter Ackroyd

Rock

Genesis

NEC, Birmingham

When Genesis first came to prominence, some 12 years ago, they were regarded as leaders in the rock-as-theatre movement. The combination of their former vocalist Peter Gabriel's fantastic costuming and the band's lengthy musical allegories gave them an edge that enabled them to overcome the pejorative implications of progressive heavy metal. Now, Genesis are a supergroup capable of packing out stadia the world over. The first night of their stint at the vast National Exhibition Centre complex, which culminates in a charity performance for the Prince of Wales Trust, was ample proof that, despite punk and Culture Club, there is still a demand for this rather reactionary style of music.

Genesis fill their fans with awe, though the theatricals have been replaced by the sophisticated technical gadgetry deemed

necessary to stay ahead in the rarified atmosphere of major league success. The lightshow looked like something out of *Close Encounters* and the music was equally exaggerated, a strident fusion of gothically proportioned heavy rock set to the compulsive beat of two drummers, Phil Collins and the former Frank Zappa sideman Chester Thompson. Collins is also Genesis' singer and principal showman these days, handling his duties with an easy confidence and a good humour. The band are undoubtedly masters at satisfying the strange urge for epic pomp rock. Sadly, for the uncommitted observer, Genesis are also a painful reminder of just how soulless and pretentious white rock music can be. This was apparent when they closed with a cunningly concocted medley of hits, past and present, a sort of pop charade that veered from the Beatles to Van Halen. The crowd lapped it up for two and a half hours.

Max Bell

Galleries

Melting-pot of beauty and the bizarre

Whirligig: Uncle Sam Riding a Bicycle, in carved and polychromed wood and metal by an unknown New England artist between 1850 and 1900 - forerunner of Pop Art?

American Folk Art Barbican

Contemporary Tapestries and Sculpture from Romania

Leighton House

Should art be national or international? Should we look for unity and continuity in a national tradition, or be more conscious of diversity? Do we, anyhow, have much choice in the matter? Though these problems affect many countries, to varying degrees, the United States seems to be the most self-conscious about them. After a century or more of glorying in the melting-pot and watching and waiting for some unmistakable new national entity to emerge, the present fashion is to emphasize rather the diversity of the ingredients and look for roots in a multiplicity of alien and, on their home ground, incompatible cultures. Perhaps this shows that the long-desired unity has been achieved and can now be taken for granted, that there is already in existence a distinct American tradition which is more than, or at least different from, the sum of its roots. All the same, a show like American Folk Art, at the Barbican Gallery until April 1, seems like putting the clock back in more ways than one.

Immediately, of course, it is looking backwards two centuries or more: most of the exhibits date from the eighteenth or nineteenth century. This means automatically that the art celebrated precedes the melting-pot era, and represents almost exclusively a coherent WASP culture. (It might, of course, also represent the beginnings of black culture when it was genuinely Afro-American, but virtually the only indication of a black presence is to be

found in white comments on slavery.) Naturally, this is a potent American tradition, because for a long time it was the only one. And, judged for themselves, many of the objects are of great beauty, or at least unforgettable bizarreness. Nor were the home-made furniture and weather-vanes and decoy ducks and quilts and signboards and journeyman portraits in any way self-conscious, let alone precious, at the time they were made. And yet today an inescapable atmosphere of preciosity clings to them: visiting the show is like stepping into an Agnes de Mille ballet rather than the real life of times past.

Most unreasonable, but there it is. I suspect it is because we cannot but see these things in part through the eyes of sophisticated twentieth-century revivalists who deliberately tried to make this into the central American tradition rather than recognizing it as one of many. After all, Colonial Williamsburg is not psychologically so far from Disneyland's Main Street, and the existence of both does tend to colour our view of the genuine article when we see it. To make matters worse, the show ends with some dreadfully twee examples of modern folk art, which are supposed to show that the tradition is alive and well.

Far be it from me to impugn the sincerity of Grandma Moses and her peers, but modern so-called naïve art is not the same thing at all, and is not produced for the same purposes or shaped by the same pressures. It would be more to the point, and less pretentious (or tendentious), to compare primitive handlings of motifs like the Stars and Stripes with the knowing manipulation of the Pop Artists who, product of the melting-pot indeed, accept and draw strength from the variety on offer today rather than looking here or anywhere else for the one true way.

No doubt Romania is helped in such matters by the closeness of all but the most sophisticated and cosmopolitan Romanians to their present roots. The show of

Contemporary Tapestries and Sculpture from Romania at Leighton House until March 10 presents us with something like a model of how national traditions can still have an important and enlivening influence on the work of even the youngest and most progressive artists today. It seems to demonstrate that the real artist is affected willy-nilly by the traditions from which he springs, or is not affected at all: the influence need not, of course, be unconscious, but it has to be felt rather than adopted through an intellectual decision.

The small wood sculptures here, mostly by artists in their thirties and forties, show almost inevitably a kinship with Brancusi, and through him go back to the peasant wood-carvers of the famous Maramureşean farm gates and other such manifestations of the true functional folk tradition. But a sculptor like Liviu Rusu, even though the works shown are variations on the gate motif, never seems to be straining to prove anything other than his delight in his material and his fascination with certain shapes. The last thing he is trying to be is folksy.

The tapestries seem to have the same free-and-easy relationship with Romania's artistic past. Lucretia Pacea, for example, can produce direct evocations of folk style like *Girl, tree and bird* without seeming fake-naïve, and if she feels like doing something more progressive she clearly does it without agonizing. Anna Tamas-Kellemen is an important stage and fashion designer as well as a weaver, and her large and colourful compositions indicate these other affiliations without requiring her to cut off all connexion with the past. Clearly there is here at work a real living tradition, which can continue to extend itself and develop without compromising either itself or those who still work happily within it.

John Russell Taylor

Concerts

Alfred Brendel Festival Hall

What Brendel does for Schubert can be said in four words: he takes him seriously. Not for him the amiable ramblings of heavenly length, the sound beautiful that caresses the ear or the harmonic twist that causes a momentary frisson. No, there are issues of life and death expounded here, and the quest for serenity is in deadly, painful earnest. Quite how he manages to communicate so directly across the vast space of a packed Festival Hall I cannot tell, but by the high point of his recital (which as so often with Brendel came immediately after the interval) he began the B flat major Sonata, D 960, with icy gentleness, despairingly smiling sounds which cut their way right across the hall.

There was a single chord - achingly dissonant, not over-emphasized, just perfectly in scale - in that movement's coda, which concentrated the experience into one moment; just where with so many other pianists' intensity is failing, Brendel manages to focus suddenly a crushing weight of emotion.

Extraordinary how Brendel can now cultivate that spiky staccato touch in the treble without it seeming, as it has in the past, brusque or acid: my only regret was that on this piano in this acoustic the bass sounded too rich and fuzzy: this Sonata cries out for a piano in which the bass is balanced with the same clarity and can sing with the same openness as the treble.

After Schubert's String Quintet on Saturday night, it was a revelation to hear Brendel lay out the slow movement of this Sonata, so similar to the Quintet in its hypnotic poise, with perfect balance and shapeliness, the upper notes brushed into place, the harmonies firmly pointed. In the finale, something seemed to slip: a brief stumble, perhaps caused by a nastily mistuned note, revealed itself in the upper register and an anxiousness and stridency came into the playing. But, if he was suddenly disturbed by the piano, he quickly made his peace and ours in a generous sequence of encores where time and again he touched the raw nerve beneath the beauty.

Nicholas Kenyon

Jones/Parsons Covent Garden

The performers and composers whose names glow from the advertisements for Covent Garden's series of Celebrity Concerts certainly seem tempting enough. In practice, though, the series is becoming something of a trial.

The trouble is that, in both conception and name, it encourages "celebrities" to perform repertoire in which they may or may not be most at ease; and, what is more, in an environment which focuses attention, over-reverently and unhelpfully, on the singer rather than the song.

Occasionally, of course, that attention is repaid by artistry rare enough to readjust and integrate the focus. More often, though, the listener is driven either to analyze the accompanist's art or to crane the ear for the fleeting reminiscence or the elusive insight.

On Sunday night there was

enough to admire in the astute and wonderfully discreet playing of Geoffrey Parsons: in his voicing of Mahler's "Liebst du um Schönheit", for instance, or in his delightful postlude to Strauss's "Meinem Kinde". There were moments, too, in Gwyneth Jones's performance that reached the ear pleasantly enough: the youthful vocal core delighting in the movement of light and water in Schubert's "Auf dem See" or "Auf dem Wasser", the warm expressive intent of Brahms's "Waldesheimel".

But there was more of Schubert and Mahler, there was Brahms and a cross-section of Richard Strauss: and there was a voice which had to be constantly pushed up what felt like an ever steeper incline. Whatever the intent, late landings, consistently sagging support, attenuated legato and mezzoforte tempered only by hard-driven climaxes soon numbed the listener and celebrated neither the song nor the singer.

Hilary Finch

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To improve the handling even more, Citroën have made the GTi's suspension firmer, and fitted a stiffer front anti-roll bar.

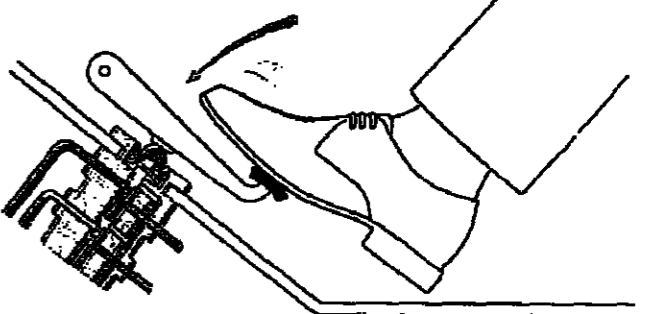
Alloy wheels, low profile tyres and a rear spoiler are, of course, standard.

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FASHION

ANDROGYNOUS

Annie Lennox is the image maker of the androgynous eighties. She is the lead singer with Eurythmics and the strange, strong, gender-crossing look of their pop posters has been taken up as street style.

The androgynous couples who stroll the streets are uncannily alike: the same short, sharp statement with hair, identical tapered pants, manish overcoats, drape jackets, bulky sweaters. Annie Lennox is not currently quite alike her musical partner Dave Stewart, for they change images to express themselves and their music. Annie is a chameleon, like that other gender-bending singer Boy George, with whom she has just featured on a *Newsweek* cover story.

Last week Eurythmics were in Paris, half way through a punishing European tour that has been successful beyond the "Sweet Dreams" of their best known record. Yesterday they flew to Los Angeles for 24 hours to collect a Grammy award for "Sweet Dreams".

In London, the 29-year-old Scottish born singer works from a converted church in Muswell Hill - a suitably gothic setting for recording her raunchy singing style.

"I never see myself as someone who starts a fashion or style. I am just trying to express myself in my clothes, creating a look from quite random elements," says Annie, who was wearing a black and white jacket (bought in a man's shop), a man's white shirt with decorative gold pin, black stirrup ski pants with what looked suspiciously like men's underpants underneath as she gyrated round the recording studio.

New York is already in the fashion grip of androgynous style, with Calvin Klein's Y-fronts for women the commercial expression of a new gender-crossing mood. Annie Lennox admits that there is something ambivalent about her style.

"I recognize in myself that I am a woman, both as a performer on stage and as a representative of my generation of women," she says. "But there is this double-edged thing about sexuality. Like most women today I am taking control of my own life and you can see my clothes as an expression of that. But really I like to wear trousers because they give freedom of movement. I don't feel comfortable in dresses."

Most of her clothes are designed by Jeff Banks who has helped to produce the different elements that do not impose an identity but have created a style. This can be a simple suit that has the right kind of silhouette on stage, a threatening combination of PVC bodice welded to a simple T-shirt or the much copied fake leopard hat.

"I have a very good relationship with Jeff, great compatibility," says Annie. "We think of something together and he is very inventive. With me, the style is something organic that grows. The trouble with the record industry is that everybody has a team of bloody stylists and the first thing that people ask is 'who does your hair?'"

For the record (factual and musical), Annie's flaming carrot hair is cut by the Eurythmics base player's girl friend Julie. Annie makes a point of this pronouncement because "I don't like the idea of a pop image as something impersonal and calculated. The image dreamed up by a manager who tells you how to look." (This is an oblique reference to pop promoter Malcolm McLaren and the not-so-spontaneous birth of punk fashion.)

The androgynous image of Annie Lennox was born in a random fashion. "I started buying cheap off-the-peg men's suits because I was so sick of the rasta locks and second-hand clothes of street style," she

ANNIE

Annie Lennox: "Ambivalent sexuality." Photograph: ORDE ELIASON.

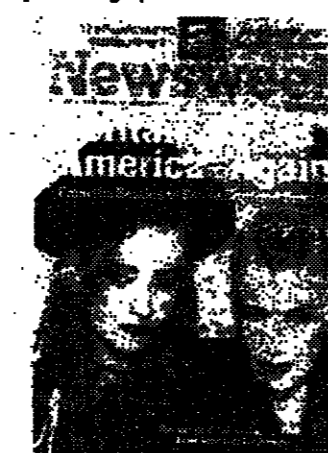
explains. "I wanted something sharp and clean."

The current image-making pictures put out by RCA records are rather different. They feature a bellicose Annie towering over a recumbent Dave. She is in a very short black skirt, laced with black leather bullet belt.

It is all a far cry from the flute student of 17 who arrived in London from Aberdeen at the Royal Academy of Music. Her Scottish childhood, her memories of her aunt's croft, of her family ("they are old-fashioned people") has been absorbed into her songs. Their current single "Here Comes the Rain" features a video in the Orkneys.

"But that is just a nod of acknowledgment to something that is very dear to me, even though it is buried in the past," she says. "Being Scottish for me is very personal, but I feel at the same time an international sort of person."

The six week-long Eurythmics European tour is taking them through Germany, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and



Scandinavia. There Annie has been acclaimed not for her clothes or for her fiery temper (which goes with the red hair) but for her voice and their music. "Other people want to be pop stars, but the important thing is to be a musician," she says.

The pop video is now such an important part of the music business, that the image is increasingly important.



"That's the beauty of this word image," says Annie with the same energy and enthusiasm that uplifts her singing. "It's so fantastic to be able to change and to find different ways of expressing ourselves through visual imagery. I love the idea of using oneself to portray different emotions and situations. I am so glad that I am not a flute teacher as I originally intended."

by Suzy Menkes



ANDROGYNOUS STREET STYLE

King's Road, in Chelsea is today as much the barometer of street fashion as 20 years ago. 1984 street style is a hard-edged and self-confident front for a generation facing an uncertain future.

Girls and guys who are mirror images of each other, and of the army of other trendy Saturday shoppers, slowly walk the length of London's famous peacock parade wearing identical clothes.

This androgynous look is much stronger than the unisex dressing of the 1960s. The clothes are man-sized, but worn without the sex appeal. Big shirts under loose fitting coats, wide-legged trousers and heavy leather boots are the important parts of the asexual uniform.

Vivienne Westwood, the leader of the androgynous pack, produces a genderless collection each season. Young designers today, all make no-sex ranges with all shapes in all sizes.

On top, hair is razor cut and often bleached albino blonde (a style borrowed from the skin-head girls who cull their male counterparts' clothes and tailors to become an accepted part

of an aggressive cult group). If it is long, hair is gelled back or tucked under a military cap.

Girls have not abandoned their make-up, rather it is used to emphasize facial focal points - the eyes and lips. The colours are vibrant oranges and pinks and nails are painted talons. Men too, have taken up the cosmetic brush to accentuate a sunken-cheekbone effect. A squiggly kohl line is run under the lower lid and sometimes a dark matt blusher shapes the face.

Cross-dressing forms a bond between the sexes, but does not transcend the generation gap. It is part of the youth culture and is not a fashion for all ages. Executive women who wear men's pants suits and flat shoes may find male colleagues misinterpreting the image.

"We are constantly experiencing the breaking-down of traditional barriers between the sexes and can perceive the changing mental attitudes reflected in street fashion."

Christine Painell

Photographs by RUSSELL MALIKIN

Angela Gore



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Left to right: safari beige open toe shoe with basket work leather decoration. By Charles Jourdan, £79.50 from 96-98 Brompton Road, London SW3. Greige and black leather shoe with thonged leather work. £49.99 from Russell Street and Bromley, 24-26 New Bond Street and branches. Cork-on-leather sling-back with stacked heel £65.50 from Xavier Darnaud, St Christopher's Place W1. Herring bone patterned leather pump in red, khaki, beige, white, black. £58.50 from Xavier Darnaud St Christopher's Place W1.

NECKLETS
Front: tiger's tooth bone necklet £19.95 from Fenwick of Bond Street. Centre back: lemon and curry, wooden bead and brown suede necklet by Slim Barrat. £22.75 from Contraband, Gees Court, W1. Right: Cork, wood and string necklet by Corcoran, £3.95 from Dickens and Jones, Selfridges and Bentalls of Kingston.

BELTS
Left: hessian belt with earth brown leather trim. By Otto Lanz £9.95 from Fenwick and Selfridges, W1. Right: khaki cotton knit safari belt. By Mulberry £18.95 from Fenwick of Bond Street.

Last week the V and A displayed its dress collection in book form and Kensington Palace previewed its collection of Court Dress which opens to the public in May.

The two displays are quite different: the elaborately braided jackets, the sweeping court trains and traditional ostrich plumes are to be exhibited in the refurbished Victorian rooms at Kensington Palace in authentic detail. Realism is the aim of the curator Nigel Arch.

Figures are frozen against a frieze of Victorian wallpaper, patterned Edwardian carpet especially reworked, or among the mahogany tables and formal escurtoires of their period.

The public will have its chance in three months' time to compare this realistic display of costumes to the V and A's purist approach.

In the book (Four Hundred Years of FASHION, edited by Natalie Rothstein, Collins hardback £9.95, paperback £5.95), the ghostly mannequins against neutral backgrounds show the costumes off superbly. A lucid text by Madeline Ginsburg (before 1900), Valerie Mendes (after 1900), and Avril Hart (men) fills the gaps left by the beige backdrop of the costume court.

There are gaps, too, in the collection itself: the authors cite the poor showing of Pierre Cardin, and the lack of early examples of outdoor dress. This is inevitable in a random Museum collection.

The book is interesting in its own right. It is also a useful guide to the chronology of a collection that I think the general public must find difficult to follow.

FASHFLASH

Selfridges is 75 years young and they are celebrating by investing in the future. Last week, chairman Leonard Sainer announced the sponsorship of a Fashion Scholarship at the Royal College of Art, the spawning ground of some of Britain's brightest design talents. This investment in fashion design - the scholarship is worth £4,500 a year - is a sign that retailers recognize the importance of style. But that must be allied to quality, price, make and reliability, according to Mr Sainer.

"The Royal College of Art is in a strong position to take the most promising students", he said, "and to give them two more years of intensive study, with the emphasis firmly on quality, so that they become not just good but excellent designers, skilled in each and every component part of their trade."

The Selfridges Anniversary Scholarship for Fashion Design will be awarded to a full-time student of fashion graduating in June 1984 at a recognised college.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Cubism, in 3-D?

Pablo Picasso's love life is about to be rekindled, although, of course, the fiery painter died more than a decade ago. Françoise Gilot, the woman he lived with from 1944 to 1954 and who bore him two children, has at last succumbed to the lucrative temptation to sell the film rights of her book, *My Life with Picasso*. Twenty years ago, when the book first appeared, Picasso sought to bar publication of the more intimate and critical passages, but French law did not support him. Since then film tycoons the world over have tried to persuade Mme Gilot - who is now married to Dr Jonas Salk, of polio vaccine fame - of the potential of Picasso's life story. What she held out for was control over who would play her and Picasso in any film, and now she has found two rich men willing to do it her way, and possibly make her associate producers. They are both Canadian - Tom Patterson, organizer of the Toronto drama festival, and Chris Yaneff, an art gallery owner. They want to break into the movie business, and are clearly determined to do it with a bang.

● I don't know quite who the BBC Singers expect to apply for a job as a soprano, but they did say in the advertisement in *The Listener*, "We are an Equal Opportunities employer."

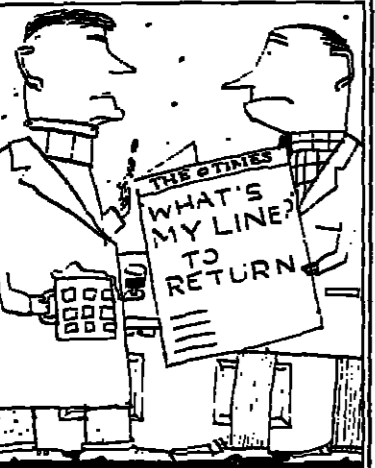
By Joves

Television presenters are used to being accused of all sorts of outlandish things, but Magnus Magnusson, the story-faced inquisitor of *Mastermind*, was completely thrown by a charge of blasphemy from an irate viewer. How dare he, the letter fumed, suggest that Jesus' first name was Reginald? After careful and repeated viewing of the *Mastermind* tapes, Magnusson finally discovered what had happened. He had reminded a contestant specializing in the works of P. G. Wodehouse that "Jeeves' first name was Reginald."

Moore's almanac

Astronomer Patrick Moore, man of the mercury tongue, is about to lash out again at small-time bureaucracy. He is asking for stories of blunders by local authorities to fill a book (no doubt at top speed - he claims to type at 90 words a minute) called *The Twinkling Files: or The Barmy Army*. In it will be the tale of the Western County Council that built a nuclear fallout shelter for 150 people with only one chemical lavatory. The book, written on his vintage 1908 and 1882 typewriters, will be the second of a local government. His first was *Bureaucrats: How to Annoy Them* under the pseudonym R. T. Fishall.

BARRY FANTONI



"Do you think they'll find enough people with a job?"

Soccer sweepers

Growing roses might seem like a gentle, relaxing occupation, but for the gardeners of Wotton Lane, alongside the Aston Villa football ground in Birmingham, it can be energetic and even hazardous. When Villa are at home, the rose-growers of Wotton Lane stand by their garden gates armed with buckets and spades waiting for the final whistle. Their targets are the crowd-controlling mounted policemen - or rather the gifts that their horses leave behind. Once the cavalry has passed, the gardeners have only minutes to rush out into the road and collect the valuable fertilizer before it and they are flattened by thousands of feet and hundreds of car tyres. Better men than you or I, as Kipling said.

● We have been told for years that religious observance is in decline, but things may be much worse than anyone imagined. The latest Thomson local directory in Torbay, Devon, lists under places of worship the sole offices and the Inland Revenue.

Cash and hARRY

The United States may have been the birthplace of the consumer movement, but we Brits can still teach the Americans a thing or two. A publication by our own National Consumer Council, *How to run a consumer week*, has been eagerly seized by the White House office of consumer affairs under President Reagan's special adviser, Virginia Knauer. The booklet is getting nationwide distribution in preparation for the American National Consumers Week, April 23 to 29. Of course, the traditionally recalcitrant British do not rise to a national consumer week and do not even take much notice of World Consumer Rights Day, but then we have always been better at telling other people what to do. Still, if anyone does want to harass a shopkeeper, the day to do it is March 15.

PHS

Keep politics out of polling

Richard Holme calls for an independent organization to oversee all aspects of elections, from boundaries to broadcasting

and the qualification of parliamentary candidates by money deposit or signature.

Questions of finance and broadcasting are crucial to success or failure in modern elections, but they are ignored or left to creaking *ad hoc* arrangements by Parliament. The Government has apparently realized that if it insists, as part of its trade union legislation, on contracting-in for the unions' political levy, this would inevitably raise awkward questions about shareholder approval for the company donations on which Tory central election funds depend.

It has drawn back from that, knowing that less dependence on institutional financing calls for the spectre of public financing. Public finance may be objectionable to a privatizing government, but it is now used in some form in most European countries, the United States, Canada and Australia.

Other changes relating to money would be in the public interest. It has become a scandalous anomaly, for instance, that election expenditure - meticulously controlled and accounted for in constituencies - is uncontrolled on the part of the national parties. During May and June, 1983, millions of pounds were spent on national campaigns without any limit or accountability. Parties should be required to

account for their revenue and disbursements to the Electoral Commission in a standard form which voters could understand.

In broadcasting, an uneasy game of "pass the parcel" now takes place between the BBC and the IBA on the one hand, and the squabbling cartel of parties on the other. A "pool" of time for party political broadcasts and party election broadcasts has first to be agreed and then shared out between the parties. It is essential that this process is as equitable as possible. Yet it is simply not fair to the broadcasting authorities to make them the arbiters. They need the judgment and protection of an impartial body concerned with the fairness of the whole electoral process.

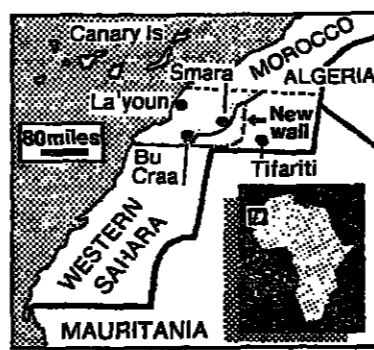
The Electoral Commission should be appointed by and responsible to Parliament, reporting annually on its work. It would conduct elections within the framework of laws laid down by Parliament, make recommendations to improve the fairness of elections which parties and Parliament would disregard at their peril, educate and inform the public on voting and take over the role of the Speaker's Conference in considering important issues, such as proportional representation, when requested to do so by Parliament.

It is time we stopped treating elections as a branch of government administration. Ministers should take off their referee's shirts, lay down their whistles and become bona fide players in the electoral game.

The author is director of the all-party Campaign for Electoral Reform.

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Morocco: military gains, political losses - by Edward Mortimer



Polisario guerrillas listening to the BBC Arabic service in Tifariti, a village in the Western Sahara 40 miles east of Morocco's "New Wall" defence perimeter of earthworks and electronic scanning devices

After the riots, Hassan's need for desert peace

Democratic Republic (SADR) proclaimed by the Polisario Front eight years ago on Spain's withdrawal from the territory.

In fact for the last two years the OAU has been all but paralyzed by the Sahara issue. It was one of the reasons why a quorum could not be obtained for the summit in Tripoli in 1982, preventing Colonel Gaddafi from assuming the OAU chairmanship. Morocco, supported by a number of other countries, refused to attend a meeting in which the SADR took part.

Last year's summit, at Addis Ababa, was able to go ahead only because the SADR delegation agreed "voluntarily and provisionally" to stay outside the conference hall. In reward, as it were, for this gesture of self-denial, the summit passed unanimously a resolution calling for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front, and this was endorsed next year by the United Nations General Assembly in December.

For tactical reasons Morocco did not oppose this resolution either in the OAU or at the United Nations, but in fact it refuses adamantly to have any public contact with Polisario, arguing that such negotiations would amount to implicit recognition of Polisario as what it claims to be - sole legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people - and thus would prejudice the result of the proposed referendum.

King Hassan, who went to great lengths to stop Spain from holding a referendum before pulling out of the territory in 1976, agreed belatedly in 1981 that one should be held to "verify" the allegiance of the inhabitants of the Sahara to the Moroccan state. He says he is still willing to hold such a referendum,

east and that those who have moved into Western Sahara from Morocco are Sahrawis who had earlier taken refuge there from Spanish persecution.

Such claims are obviously not easy for a foreigner, escorted by the authorities on both sides, to verify. In La Youne, the capital, I met Sahrawis who claimed they had always considered themselves Moroccans. Some said they had supported and even fought for Polisario at the beginning of the war (though they could not coherently explain why) but had later become disillusioned at its authoritarian methods and obvious dependence on Algeria.

In the Algerian refugee camps and in the Polisario guerrilla forces I met many young men who clearly were genuine Sahrawis, born and brought up in the former Spanish territory, and who believed passionately in an independent Sahrawi people. Whether such a people existed before has in a sense become irrelevant, as with the Palestinians. Meanwhile, the war goes on. King Hassan is gradually extending the area he controls - both the town of Smara and the phosphate mine at Bu Craa are now well inside the Moroccan defensive wall - but at the price of a steady toll of casualties and a vast outlay on weapons and equipment. Diplomatically, he is now wrong-footed by both the OAU and UN, and the current OAU chairman, President Mengistu of Ethiopia, has sent a round robin to all African heads of state laying the blame firmly at Morocco's door.

Levied premises are now being built in Guinea by Moroccan architects, allegedly paid with Saudi money, for the next OAU summit, due to be held there in May. It is assumed that Sékou Touré, as a quid pro quo, will do his best to keep the SADR out of the conference. But Algeria and its supporters may be no more willing now to attend a summit without the SADR than Morocco and its supporters were to attend one with the SADR in 1982.

Sékou Touré, like Gaddafi denies him the ultimate accolade to which every African leader aspires: the chairmanship of the OAU.

between the Christian and Social Democrats.

In the waterworks, the Bundestag may have to be rearranged like the House of Commons, with members sitting opposite each other on benches and without room for all.

Herr Detlef Kleinert, chairman of the parliamentary building committee, thinks this would be a good thing, as it would encourage status consciousness and the present "bunker mentality" caused by each person seeking refuge behind his desk. He hopes it might lead to a permanent change.

Other experts prefer the Vienna model - a circular seating arrangement which has the advantage of looking fairly full even when the building is fairly empty. Television viewers especially like to see their deputies hard at work.

A century ago the local press was wondering whether the new water pumps would mean that the age of progress and water closets had arrived in Bonn. Today the water works is the focus for a rather different debate, but one which deputies and the press feel is equally important for the face of the city and the comfort of its most influential inhabitants.

Michael Binyon

Robin Cook

Why Europe needs a new Messina

The most consistent feature in the history of Messina is the regularity with which it has been demolished by earthquake. After the last major cataclysm levelled every building in 1908, it was necessary to rebuild the town anew. Messina therefore provides a peculiarly apt symbol for a European Community that appears to tremble on the brink of a similar climax.

It is a measure of the gravity of the impending crisis that last week it should stimulate major statements on Europe from a leading figure in the two main political parties. As I cannot pretend to neutrality between Neil Kinnock and Sir Geoffrey Howe let me choose unashamedly to begin with Kinnock's call for a new Messina Conference.

Europe is now not at the crossroads, as the fashionable rhetoric would have it, but at a dead end. There are two major barriers across its present path. The first is the obsessive infatuation of the EEC with agriculture, which provides employment for one twentieth of Europe's workforce, but gobbles up two thirds of the EEC budget. Future generations will regard with incomprehension an institution which set out ruthlessly to uproot the surplus stock capacity of Europe, but was incapable of arresting its burgeoning surplus of milk production.

The second obstacle is the introverted nature of the current preoccupation of the Community. It is palpably absurd that Britain should simultaneously rank among the four poorest member states and also be one of only two net contributors to the budget.

The extent to which the agenda of the Community is addressed only to those problems which it itself has created was perfectly illustrated by the Athens summit. On that occasion, the premiers of 10 nations, including all the major European powers, met in conference for three days of talks which were wholly obsessed with the regulations for a super levy on cows or the dispute as to whether Britain was being short-changed out of the budget. They therefore found no time to consider such contemporary crises as Lebanon or Cyprus.

Sir Geoffrey Howe nicely demonstrated the drift out of touch with reality of those absorbed in such internal debates when he provided the other major statement of last week. In the course of his Brussels speech, Sir Geoffrey blithely prattled about Community progress in liberalizing lorry movements in the week when any European with a television set could observe the most spectacular seizure of lorry movements in postwar history.

The reality with which Mr Kinnock's thesis is most concerned is the economic slump which, despite its historic dimensions, has not surfaced on the summit agendas other than under any other business. Preoccupied with buttressing the incomes of Europe's eight million farmers, the premiers of Europe have neglected its growing army of 13 million unemployed. There is an almost satirical quality to the manner in which they fluss together over further directives to ensure elimination of trade barriers, while separately they promote policies of domestic deflation deliberately designed to diminish their imports from one another.

Reflexion in one country may be a chancy business, but it would appear most of the risks can be removed if there is parallel reflexion throughout Europe. This is a field of inquiry on which the EEC has been notably silent, but the OECD has recently produced a study which concludes that for a given level of increase in public investment in any one country, the expansionary stimulus is doubled and the negative impact on fiscal and trade deficits is halved if it is accompanied by similar levels of retation in the rest of Europe. The real challenge to Europe is how to achieve that coordinated relaxation out of slump, and the true tragedy of Europe is that few of its leaders are interested in even asking the question.

It is against that background that Neil Kinnock's call for a new Messina must be judged. What he proposes is a Europe in which sovereign governments turn from the pointless search on how to integrate their VAT regime and concentrate, instead, on how to cooperate in developing domestic economic policies that are complementary with one another, rather than competitive.

Unconsciously, Sir Geoffrey responded to this call on the very same day with a speech that perfectly expresses the need to relaunch the Community. From a studiedly dramatic opening in which he declared, "I am a European", the speech rapidly descended into furnishing footnotes to the current negotiations over the budget. In so far as Sir Geoffrey discovered a model which represents his aspirations for Europe, he found it in the achievement of the Benelux countries in producing a single standard form at customs posts. This is the Europe with which we are wearily familiar - a Europe that responds to the epic challenge of economic slump by devising another form. Roll on the earthquake.

The author is the Labour MP for Livingston.

Roger Scruton

A socialist evil to rival racism

An attempt has recently been made to label the Conservative Party as "racist". I hope it may contribute to the public discussion of this accusation if I try to define its principal term.

"Racism" as it is now universally described in the English-speaking world, involves three beliefs. The first is that mankind is divided into separate "races", defined, not by common culture or common language, but by a common ancestry. The second is the belief that a person's "race" tends to be expressed in his character, so that those who differ in their ancestry may for that reason differ in their customs, outlook, aptitudes and vitality. The third belief is that a person's racial affinity is morally decisive - in other words, that his rights and liabilities, his guilt and his innocence, are alike determined by his race.

Not all of these beliefs are equally dangerous. In fact, the first two are held by many of the critics of racism. Such critics have been known to praise (and rightly) the vitality and openness of African and Caribbean peoples, and to criticize the haughtiness of white Anglo-Saxons. They have sometimes attributed the excesses of communism to the "Russian" temperament, or to an "inherited" need for dictatorial authority. They have even been known to excuse the tribal massacres that have blighted modern Africa by referring to the unnatural mixing of peoples by colonial rule.

Such ways of thinking are probably fallacious. Nevertheless, they exemplify an idea by which many people live, the idea that "ethnos is ethos". It has been a dominant belief in human society that racial origins are a determinant of character. In all crucial decisions - marriage, war and alliance - this idea has provided one of the few points of departure from which a lasting course of action can be planned.

Neither of the first two beliefs has any tendency to confirm the third, and it is the third which is the most dangerous. Race is at best an influence on behaviour, not the moral source of it. It is the individual alone who acts, and he alone who should bear the benefits and the burdens of moral judgment. In all questions of right and duty, it is both wicked and nonsensical to refer to a person's race - whether the purpose be to accuse him, or to exonerate him. To do so is to place the crucial attribute of responsibility where it does not belong - with the abstract totality, rather than with the concrete individual.

The racist ignores every genuine right and obligation in pursuit of a merely abstract reckoning: he seeks to reward or punish the individual in respect of qualities which are not of his own choosing and for which he can in truth be neither praised nor blamed.

It is surely obvious that racism is an evil. Even if it were not obvious from its intrinsic nature, it is obvious from its effects. Millions have died precisely because, in the eyes of the racist, they were already being of an "inferior" race, without rights, condemned by their very existence.

Racism exemplifies the single most disturbing moral characteristic of the twentieth century. Ours is a century of "mass movements", and "impersonal forces". Our wars are declared and fought for purely abstract causes, regardless of every individual obligation and every individual right. And in peace, as in war, our affairs are conducted in the shadow of vast, impersonal crimes.

Consider another example - that of "classism". I shall call it this, distinguished by three beliefs. The first is that mankind is divided into separate classes, defined, not by common culture or common language, but by a common economic function. The second is that a person's "class" tends to be displayed in his character, affecting his customs, outlook, attitude and vitality. The third is that a person's "class membership" is morally decisive - determining rights and liabilities, innocence and guilt.

The first two beliefs are disputable, but comparatively innocent. But what of the third? Does it not permit just the same channeling of an impersonal, annihilating hatred, as is permitted by the grim allegiances of the racist? And has it not had precisely the same devastating effects upon the conscience of our century? Consider the "liquidation of the kulaks", in which 10 million people paid the supreme price, merely for their membership of a "parasitic" class. Or consider the so-called "cultural revolution" in China, and the genocide initiated by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Is it not obvious that - in the light of these crimes - we should be as careful to extinguish every spark of classism in our thinking as we are to "stamp out" and "kick out" racism?

Those last phrases belong to Labour Party propaganda, and return me to the point from which I began. Whether the accusations against the Conservative Party are justified I do not know. But I am certain that many members of the Labour Party are guilty of classism when they refer with such scorn to the "middle class", as though the great modern crimes against this "class" have been in no way initiated by socialist habits of thinking.

When Mr Kinnock sneers at the "middle class" commentators who do not understand his language, or boasts of the "working class" affiliations which "justify" his power, I feel a decided chill. Substitute "Jew" or "black" for "middle class" - for after all, we are in each case considering the fate of a minority - and you will see what I mean.



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ONE NATION, TWO STANDARDS

Intimate relations between East and West Germany are too deeply rooted in the self-interest of both states to be seriously upset by the presence of five relatives of the East German prime minister, Herr Willi Stoph, in the West German embassy in Prague. Nevertheless, it presents the Germans with an awkwardness.

The East Germans are embarrassed not least because the defection of members of a prominent and privileged political family is a poor advertisement for the regime and its system. They are also in a dilemma because, if the family were given safe conduct to West Germany, there might be a rush of East German citizens to the same escape route.

The West Germans are embarrassed because they do not want their embassies besieged in this way, yet they cannot send the group back to East Germany unconditionally. Apart from the moral and political implications of doing so they are restrained by the fact that East Germans enjoy automatic citizenship in West Germany. The East Germans know this, so they also know that they cannot realistically expect to get the family back.

There seem to be only two possible solutions. One is for the family to remain as guests of the embassy for as many years as it takes to find a solution, but this would attract steady publicity and be a burden on everyone. The other, which is the most

likely, is for the group temporarily to go home, provided it has received firm guarantees that a formal application for emigration will be granted immediately. This was the solution found for the Siberian Pentecostals in Moscow, but only after many years. They went home and were then "allowed" to leave.

Since the Soviet authorities kept their bargain over the Pentecostals there is no reason to doubt that the East Germans would keep a similar bargain. Indeed, they have even more reason to do so because of their desire to keep good relations with West Germany. They are heavily dependent on the hard currency which comes to them under various headings, such as road tolls for Western access to Berlin, payment for the release of prisoners, credits and, of course, very substantial trade. For all this they accept some, obviously tolerable embarrassments. They let out limited numbers of their citizens (recently far more than usual), and permit large numbers of West Germans to visit East Germany, bringing hard currency along with the awkward infections of capitalism. They turn a blind eye to the almost universal watching of Western television. Recently, under pressure from Bonn, they have dismantled some of the automatic firing devices on the frontier (but there are still armed guards all along it).

They are keen to maintain good relations with Western

Europe while the superpowers ponder their own and have not acted on the threats of an "ice age" after the missiles were deployed in Europe. So the two German leaders, Herr Kohl and Herr Honecker, had long and apparently cordial talks in Moscow on the occasion of Mr Andropov's funeral. Of course, it is also in Moscow's interest to woo West Germany at this moment, so Herr Honecker is unlikely to be acting entirely on his own initiative.

This increasing convergence of interests between the two Germanies is now a factor in European politics which neither alliance can ignore, though each side respects the interests of its own and the other's alliance. Moscow permits it because to disrupt it would cause problems in both states - diplomatic and political friction with Bonn and growing discontent in East Germany, where contacts with the West help compensate for the deprivation of political rights and static or declining living standards. The West raises no objections, partly for the same reasons, partly because Bonn remains staunchly loyal to the alliance, and partly because we must hope that the balance of advantage in the complex inner German relationship continues to come out broadly in favour of the West. Although the individual bargains that are struck can seem to fluctuate in favour of one side or the other, it is always East Germany, shielding its insecurity behind its infamous wall, that is on the defensive.

SMALLHOLDER CONTRADICTIONS

The Agricultural Holdings Bill is now clear of the House of Lords and awaits its second reading in the Commons. The Bill seals the compact between the landowners' association and the farmers' union by which in return for a new "softer" formula for rent arbitration there shall be no more three-generation succession tenancies. It is lobbyists' legislation, of the kind which ought to prick parliament to write some of the script for itself. Some peers took up the challenge but the House sat on them.

The purpose of the Bill, the policy underlying it, according to ministers is to come to the rescue of the farm tenancy system in the face of its long decline. The system is rightly thought to deserve encouragement since it promotes an efficient division between fixed and working capital and between capital and husbandry skill. It also prevents farming from becoming the almost exclusive preserve of the wealthy or a virtually hereditary occupation. Nearly 90 per cent of farm land was rented at the beginning of the century, now between 35 and 40 per cent. The rate of decline has been fairly steady.

Measured against so large and long a change the present Bill is exceedingly modest, as its authors and pilots are ready to admit. Its modesty has been fully respected by the House of Lords. Various ways of extending its range were tried in order to fortify the tenancy system. All were rejected except an amendment permitting agreed succession *inter vivos* at the age of 65 or over, which may slightly speed up the transfer of tenancies already assured. The following proposals were made and failed: term tenancies; starter tenancies; tenancies to run to retiring age not death, coupled with a pension scheme; cancellation of rights of succession where they already exist; an obligation on institutional landlords to let 90 per cent of their

estate; Lord Walston's national land trust to create a pool of tenancies, enlarged powers of a similar kind for the Crown Estates. The tax regime, which is probably the largest single factor in the decline of the rented sector, was outside the scope of the Bill and outside the competence of the House of Lords.

The Government was not necessarily wrong to organize the defeat of these amendments, to most of which objections can be found even where they serve to promote the letting of farmland. But there was one proposal concerning which the minister's objection is highly paradoxical. The statutory smallholdings of county councils form less than one per cent of all farmland, but they account for 15 per cent of new tenancies and an even higher proportion of new tenancies admitting new entrants to farming. Their importance in the context of a "farming ladder" is far greater than their aggregate size might suggest. The power of county councils to serve as agricultural landlords in this way goes back to an Act of 1892 when that unquestionable Tory Lord Salisbury was prime minister. The idea was to relieve depression and counter the tendency for the small farmer to disappear. The holdings serve a related purpose to this day.

The present financial pressures on county councils are now making these estates for the first time subject to serious erosion. Several proposals were made in committee in the Lords for ways of stabilizing the position. All were rejected by the minister on the ground that "we do not consider it a part of central government's function to second guess the decisions of local authorities in that respect" - that from a government whose inroads into local discretion are notorious.

So, while the Government professes to be seriously concerned to reinforce the agricultural tenancy system, it is happy to stand by and watch the

breakup of publicly owned estates of smallholdings wherever this generation of councillors prefers to convert those assets into higher-yielding investments. It will not even issue guidance in the matter conveying the priorities of its agricultural policies.

Even while the Lords were debating this, Somerset County Council resolved to embark upon a policy of disposal. It has 168 fully equipped commercial holdings, averaging 76 acres. Like all but 11 of the 54 counties, Somerset had a net surplus on its smallholdings account in the last financial year - £260,000. On assets valued at £12 million as they stand, and £35 million with vacant possession, that is a small return. The council reckons it would do better by selling, putting the money on deposit, and paying its bills with the interest. Hitherto it has sold parcels of agricultural land only for the better management of the estate. It has now decided to sell on the open market whenever vacancy occurs and enter into negotiation for purchase by sitting tenants. Through vacancies alone perhaps a quarter of the estate will have passed from the rented agricultural sector in the course of the next five years.

This type of decision, which is not isolated, is so plainly contrary to the wider social and economic purpose of preserving the tenancy option and a sufficiency of smallholdings, and of facilitating the entry of new farmers - it is so plainly a sacrifice of that purpose to the immediate exigencies of local government funding - that the Government must either drop the pretence that it is bothered about the erosion of the rented sector, or it must, at the very least, acquaint county councils with the thrust of national policy in this matter. National policy once declared (as the Government is eager to insist in another context) is something local authorities have an obligation to respect.

TATARS FAR FROM HOME

If Mr Chernenko wishes to confound his critics and show that he possesses some reforming initiative, he should take immediate action to right the wrongs suffered by one of the smallest nations under his control: the Crimean Tatars, less than half a million in number, who have been dispossessed of their homeland longer than the Palestinians. The political trial of the Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev coincided with the Chernenko election. As a prominent figure in the human rights movement, his release would signify a more enlightened approach than that prevailing under the former KGB chief Yuri Andropov.

During the trial, which took place in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan in Soviet Central Asia, the local newspaper *Pravda vostochna* tried to reduce protest demonstrations by attempting some character assassination. It accused Mr Dzhemilev of trying "by the dirtiest methods to blacken the name of our country and people, hindering the peaceful initiatives of the Soviet state". But the USSR is not one country, nor is there a single,

united Soviet people. Far from "betraying the interests of his country" Mustafa Dzhemilev suffered four terms of imprisonment for championing the right of his people to return to their homeland.

In his latest trial he was actually charged with "provocation" because he tried to honour the wishes of his father, who died last year in Uzbekistan exile, to be buried in his native Crimea. Of course all Soviet citizens tend to be restricted to the place of residence marked in their internal passports, but this regulation is particularly resented by the Crimean Tatars, deported forty years ago by Stalin when Dzhemilev was only a few months old.

During the Nazi occupation of the Crimea, thousands of Tatars served in German anti-partisan detachments, while others joined the Soviet partisans. Many served with the Red Army, some winning the highest decorations for bravery. But Stalin condemned the whole nation. "Liberation" was followed by mass executions of collaborators and on 18 May 1944 the Crimean

Tatars, including those who had fought against the Germans, were rounded up and deported to Siberia and Central Asia. Thousands of children and old people died in cattle trucks during transportation and in appalling brutal conditions of resettlement.

The Tatars claim that more than 100,000 - almost half the nation - perished in the course of resettlement. While denying the scale of genocide the Soviet authorities under Khrushchev absolved the Crimean Tatars of mass treachery but refused them the right of residence in the Crimea.

There is no insurmountable economic or social obstacle to their return, since the Crimea has a labour shortage while Central Asia has a surplus; Tatars who settled in the Crimea would be a small proportion of the area's population. But the Soviet leaders have always avoided making concessions to any nationality, no matter how small, for fear that they might encourage demands from the other discontented peoples of the USSR. Can Mr Chernenko prove to be the exception?

Breaches in police code of practice

From the Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales
Sir, Police officers will be astonished to learn that the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Justice (February 21) believes that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill "contains no sanction" to ensure that police officers do not break the comprehensive code of police powers in connection with investigation of crime.

Clause 59 gives statutory authority to the codes of practice, laid down by the Home Secretary, to govern police actions in connection with detention, treatment, questioning and identification of persons by police officers, searches of premises by police officers, and seizure of property found by police officers in searches of persons or premises.

Clause 60(8) says, "A police officer shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings for a failure to observe any provision of such a code." The only exception to this mandatory rule is where a police officer's alleged breach of the code amounts to an allegation of criminal conduct and he has been acquitted of that charge in a court of law.

Mr Paul Sieghart may not regard this provision as a "sanction". We do, and we are concerned that the sanction has been drafted in such a way as to require disciplinary proceedings for even the most inadvertent or minor breaches. Our members stand to lose their jobs, or their rank, or be heavily fined, by police disciplinary hearings. Mr Sieghart is not entitled to dismiss this provision as of no account.

Justice puts forward a proposal that was considered and rightly rejected by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure. To have a rule of evidence that would automatically exclude evidence obtained in breach of the code would ensure that a guilty person escaped justice. It is open to the court now to exclude evidence obtained in breach of the Judges' Rules.

Clause 60 of the Bill also makes it clear (sub-section 7) that the court may take account of the provisions of the codes of practice when deciding any question raised concerning them. In other words, the royal commission felt this was best left to the common sense of the judges, and we agree.

Nothing has done more to discredit the criminal justice system of the United States than the adoption of what is called "the fruit of the poisoned tree" by which evidence held to be doctrine obtained is excluded. This doctrine has resulted in palpably guilty men escaping the consequence of horrific or very serious crimes. In these circumstances, such a rule becomes not a guarantee of due process, but an affront to the name of Justice.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE J. CURTIS, Chairman,
Police Federation of England and Wales,
15-17 Langley Road,
Sutton,
Surrey,
February 24.

The clean break

From Mr J. F. R. Harris
Sir, It is a strange kind of morality which compels your leader writer (February 16) to describe the principle of the "clean break" after divorce as a "laudable ideal" and a similarly perverse conception of justice to hope that the outworking of this principle will become a "just reality".

That two parties, having entered into a union of an essentially permanent nature, should be granted with impunity the indulgence of ending their mutual maintenance obligations together with a once and for all division of matrimonial property is surely a notion singularly devoid of any moral responsibility or justice. Yours faithfully,
J. F. R. HARRIS,
41 Lyon Park Avenue,
Wembley,
Middlesex,
February 16.

Countryside heritage

From Professor Kenneth Mellanby
Sir, Many of your correspondents are concerned with the changes to our farmland which have occurred since 1945. There has been an unprecedented increase in food production, but the appearance of the landscape has changed, and the richness of its wildlife has generally decreased. It is natural therefore that conservationists should wish to do everything possible to protect, or restore, the beauty and richness of the countryside.

However, it is often forgotten that what we wish to preserve, particularly in lowland Britain, is a man-made countryside, the results of previous agricultural practices. To retain its value it needs to be managed, often in an uneconomic

Falklands fisheries

From Mr M. B. F. Ranken
Sir, Simon Lyster (feature, February 18) really should reflect on why fisheries were never developed around the Falklands or even South Georgia before the recent war, especially so as world fish catches trebled over 20 years and have only crept up slowly in the past decade or so. But little of that catch ever came from these waters.
One British skipper described the southern part of the Patagonian continental shelf as a desert and that is certainly true in various seasons and years.
British and European companies showed no interest, although the Spanish, with Argentine licences, have long fished farther north, occasionally as far south as Comodoro Rivadavia; so have Greeks and Portuguese.
Few Argentine vessels ever

Unions under test in GCHQ clash

From Professor Raphael Loewe
Sir, Whilst I question the Government's wisdom in rejecting a compromise for GCHQ by which what is needed could have been substantially secured for the time being, I sympathise with Mrs Thatcher's misgivings.

Rank-and-file trades union loyalty and patriotism are, of course, not in question: I have seen how my fellow-countrymen can pull together when they come to appreciate the gravity of crisis or threat. But the track record of many trades union leaders inspires no such confidence. Your readers will recall enough instances of defiance of the courts, of attempted frustration of police responsibility to protect the public order, of incitement to law-breaking, and of studied disregard of public safety, convenience, and amenity in pursuit of sectional interests, to make their own identifications.

In particular, they will remember a statement made during the health workers' strike that some patients might have to die to prove a union's point. In view of such instances, how could any responsible prime minister be confident that assurances now belatedly offered in good faith by trades union leadership regarding preservation of the operational integrity of GCHQ will be honoured by their successors, and that the latter may not at some future date bring intolerable moral blackmail to bear on their membership?

Doubtless trade union spokesmen will rejoin that they have no monopoly of a type of moral blackmail that can endanger public liberties, interests or safety; an unscrupulous government could exercise it much more powerfully. The difference is that the electorate would have itself to thank for having installed such a government.

Until trades union leadership can persuade us that it will never again support or condone the subordi-

nation of national and public interests to sectional ones it will not merit our respect, and until the Labour Party convincingly repudiates its subservience to the control that the unions, as its main financial support, seek and indeed claim the right to exercise, it will not again be considered a credible alternative government by many moderate, non-party members such as
Yours faithfully,
RAPHAEL LOEWE,
50 Gurney Drive, N2.

From Mr Peter Kelly

Sir, Most people probably accept the Government's contention that the work of GCHQ is of vital importance to defence and should not be liable to interruption.
But the services of GCHQ must have seemed of purely secondary interest to those who suffered and died in the recent hospital strike. Apart from hospital workers, many other classes of the population, for instance teachers, railway workers, air-traffic controllers, do work of vital importance and have brought misery and loss to millions of people by going on strike.

At long last the trade unions are showing some sense of responsibility and, as far as GCHQ is concerned, they now seem ready to conduct themselves there in such a way as to exclude strikes. Having got this far, the Prime Minister should seize the opportunity with both hands, in the hope that the idea of avoiding strikes in vital areas will spread.

But if Mrs Thatcher stands out for unconditional surrender she is unlikely to get it because British people, trade unionists or not, are not built that way; and we shall all suffer from the ensuing confrontation.

Your obedient servant,
PETER KELLY,
73 Ottways Lane,
Ashted, Surrey.

Housing anomaly

From Lord Molsen
Sir, The sudden announcement that the Inland Revenue, with the Government's consent, intend to interpret the law of taxation in a new way so as to increase the burden on building societies by a large sum, estimated by some experts at £160m, comes at a time when the House of Lords is considering the Housing and Building Control Bill.

One important effect of this Bill, if unamended, will be to extend the right to buy at a substantial discount to many of the tenants rented houses specially adapted for the disabled and elderly.

The policies of the Government are contradictory. One action reduces the ability of the building societies to finance the buying of

their rented houses by the tenants; another action would increase the number of tenants enjoying the right to do so.

Nor is that the only, perhaps not the most striking anomaly. Because the House of Lords in the last Parliament rejected the proposal to give the right to buy to tenants of charitable trusts, the Government have announced their intention to subsidize the purchase of houses in the open market by tenants who would have been able to buy if the House of Lords had approved the Government's proposal.

An authoritative estimate has just been published that this will probably cost the Exchequer £600m. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MOLSON,
House of Lords,
February 25.

Community reform

From Mr Stuart R. de la Mahotiere
Sir, Mr Neil Kinnock's proposals for reform of the European Community are attractively deceptive and supporters of the Community who feel that some reform is needed should beware of falling out of the frying pan into the fire.

It has long been the contention of many socialists that the EEC is a bastion of capitalism and, like Carthage, should be destroyed. In essence the reforms are simple: for capitalism read socialism and for a market economy read dirigisme. Revision of the Treaty of Rome will produce no changes of substance. The concept of unity based on a free market economy with the Commission as initiator and supervisor will remain.

However, Mr Kinnock and his followers are not the only ones who feel that the Community should alter course. Only in agriculture and fisheries has a common policy been produced and it has contrived to please only a very small minority, of farmers and fishermen. In all other spheres - financial, commercial, industrial and political - there is some unity on paper but little in practice. Non-tariff barriers, for instance, still hinder the flow of trade.

M Monnet, M Schuman, Dr Adenauer, M Spaak and Alcide de Gasperi all saw the Treaty of Rome as forming the nucleus of a federal united states of Europe. The process was to be gradual, one step leading logically and necessarily to the next. But the project never really got under way.

From de Gaulle onwards no member government was prepared to surrender its power and authority to an "aropagus of stateless men". Not unnaturally they held, and still hold, the view that their first allegiance is to the parliaments and people who elected them. But this attitude does not lead to the path of federation. Without the political will to survive, the Community will stagnate and possibly die a natural death. Enlargement will not delay the process - on the contrary.

The founding fathers were right. Only a federation of European states has a chance of providing the sort of instrument which enables individual states to retain the maximum amount of political and economic freedom without impeding the federal structure as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
STUART R. de la MAHOTIERE,
The Tithe House,
43 Tidcombe Lane,
Tiverton, Devon.

On the other hand, an increasing number obviously care deeply for wildlife and rural beauty.

I believe that the most promising development is the extension of the activities of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Groups (FWAGs). If they succeed in bringing both sides together the greater is the chance that uncommitted or even antagonistic farmers may be persuaded to make some sacrifices to ensure that we all have a more interesting and beautiful rural landscape to share with our flora and fauna.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MELLANBY,
Hill Farm,
Wennington,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire,
February 20.

matter, but here again massive investment is involved and reliable technology still lacking.

Declaration of fishing limits to 200 miles or median lines could be a source of royalties and, if properly enforced, might assist resource management and environmental protection. But enforcement also involves the heavy expense of patrol vessels and aircraft, shore administration and, eventually, scientific and statistical support.

South-west Atlantic fish have not had a reliable reputation in world markets and cannot be assured of a high enough price to justify a major investment of capital, management and manpower, all of it imported over great distances.

Yours faithfully,
M. B. F. RANKEN,
28 Clare Lawn Avenue, SW14.

Civil liberties in widest context

From the General Secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties
Sir, Your leader (February 24) on the fiftieth anniversary of the National Council for Civil Liberties struck the right balance. I am the first to agree that a society in which democratic institutions warrant respect and the rule of law is upheld is the most favourable climate for maintaining individual liberties. The phrase, drifting into "a law-and-order society" should not be construed as anti-authority or disrespect for the rule of law. But the concept of "law and order" begs two questions, which are what "laws" are just and desirable, and what "order" is needed in society.

Phrases such as "law and order" and "national security" are increasingly used as signals for the deprivation of liberty where the Government chooses not to further explain the reasons for the deprivation. Laws must be respected in the community. Policing by coercion undermines law enforcement and contributes to the disorder it seeks to prevent.

One need not be "soft on crime" to suggest that the law already gives the police sufficient powers of arrest and detention where they have reasonable grounds that a crime has been committed. Violence in society cannot be cured by injustice; it is with some concern that I observe that, if the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is enacted, Britain will have the longest period of detention for questioning in any common-law nation.

I intend to stick rigidly to my promise to approach these and other civil liberty issues on an all-party basis. I hope soon to be able to announce the reformation of the all-party parliamentary civil liberties group with the chair from the majority party.

Yours sincerely,
LARRY GOSTIN,
General Secretary,
National Council for Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1,
February 27.

What monopoly?

From Mr Richard Barr
Sir, If solicitors charge three times less in the north than they do in the south (report, February 16) it hardly seems realistic to maintain that they are operating a monopoly.

Those who do not like this differential have an easy solution: instruct a northern solicitor to act in their southern house transaction. The law is the same everywhere in England and Wales. Telegraphic transfers, the modern formula for exchanging contracts over the telephone and the reliability of undertakings given by solicitors would all ensure that a client needs to suffer no delay if his solicitor is hundreds of miles away.

It is ironic that your report also highlights the real monopoly in property transactions: that of the Government to charge stamp duty. North or south, this is still by far the biggest single item in a house buying transaction.

Should not the Government introduce legislation to abolish this tax? To do so would reduce the cost of property transactions far more than any steps to eliminate the so-called "solicitors' monopoly". Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BARR,
Dawbarns, Solicitors,
Listergate House,
80 Chapel Street,
King's Lynn,
Norfolk,
February 17.

Artistic freedom

From the President of the Critics' Circle
Sir, Apartheid is contemptible. But so is the idea that a performing artist will not be allowed to perform unless he toes a political line - a notion unmistakably totalitarian in flavour. The Critics' Circle vigorously condemns the action of Camden council in banning the pianist, Malcolm Binns, from the Camden Festival unless he signs an understanding never again to perform in South Africa (report, February 23).

The question is not whether one is for or against the regime in question but whether one is for or against fundamental freedoms in our own society. Most of us regard most of the communist countries as repressive police states, but we would not dream of suggesting that our performing artists should not visit them. The more unfree and unjust a society, the more important it is that it should be penetrated by art and ideas from outside.

Camden council should on no account be appeased on this issue and should back down at once.

At a council meeting of the Critics' Circle held yesterday my colleagues unanimously requested me to write this letter. Yours etc,
BRYAN MAGEE, President,
The Critics' Circle,
As from: 12 Falkland House, W8,
February 24.

Penny wise?

From Mr J. P. McKeone
Sir, To mark my eightieth birthday 25 pence has been added to my weekly retirement pension. Of this handsome sum the taxman gets 7½p.

Surely a voucher for a free toffee apple would cost the taxpayer less administratively if indeed the remaining 17½p would go that far.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. McKEONE,
4 Red Oak Close,
Orpington,
Kent.

● Last chance to win a micro: Page 20

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● Two men to match Japan: Page 19



Randy Goldfield... long time to go

Offices 'not ready to go paperless'

By Rory Johnston

Much-trumpeted schemes for office automation have not fulfilled their promise because the users are just not ready for them, and because firms expect a cost-payback over too short a time scale. Those were two of the sobering diagnoses presented by consultants at the Info '84 conference in London last week.

Randy Goldfield, president of the Omni Group consulting firm in New York and a well-known figure on the American office automation scene, said that despite the crudeness of present-day tools for increasing the productivity of managers and professionals, the potential users are so far behind in their computer-literacy that it will be five to seven years before they are able to use existing aids comfortably.

It is widely acknowledged that the real potential for office automation is in improving the productivity of highly paid managers and professionals, rather than secretaries who make up only a small part of total costs.

However, reasonable this sounds, Bill Lattimer of Arthur Andersen told the Info conference, it presents major problems in cost-justification. If you save 10 per cent of an executive's time, what does he do with that time saved? It is not very likely that he will earn an extra 10 per cent for the firm in that time.

It is also unlikely that the firm could do with 10 per cent fewer executives.

Considerations such as these are dampening many companies' enthusiasm for office automation, Lattimer said. Other factors include a need to cost-justify over a short time

scale, lack of standards and little prospect for these in the near future and the risk involved.

Goldfield cited figures from a survey of 834 companies her firm has just carried out, showing that well over half of the businesses already have strategies for office automation and many more expect to be 1985. Similar large majorities insist on cost-justification for office automation and most firms see their main concern as compatibility, with reducing staff the least important of their aims.

She described the efforts of the Alliance Insurance Company in Philadelphia to make its offices paperless. The slogan "Paper-free by '83" was adopted - needless to say it was not achieved. The company would have "paperless-office days", during which no one was allowed to use paper at all. The result, Goldfield related, was chaos.

In another firm the managing director went around late one night and threw away everybody's card indexes. There was much frantic scrambling in the dustbins the next morning.

Nonetheless, progress was being made, Goldfield asserted. The Alliance now sends virtually no paper between its head office and its branches, all of this being reorganized into electronic mail.

One danger she cited was that of over-enthusiastic top executives who insisted on being provided with automation for their own use. "They shouldn't ask for it," Goldberg said, "because we just do not know yet how to provide effective tools for these people."

Chilling prospect behind the checkout

The thought of British Telecom, the state-owned telecommunication giant, in partnership with IBM, the dominant force in computer manufacture and design, is a chilling one. It is even more chilling when one considers that British Telecom is soon to move into the private sector and have less public accountability than it does at present.

The proposed partnership is chilling as is the project. That is, to design an electronic money transfer system to be used by retailers all over the country in an effort to eliminate a substantial proportion of the paper needed by banks, companies and individuals when making payments.

The idea has been driven by the banks which are keen on minimising the time and cost of processing money. They have been one of the principal forces behind the consumer responding to high technology because of the plethora of automatic tellers which now populate the high streets of Britain. The statistics are staggering and are a monument to the determination of the banking fraternity who find the cost of processing a cheque, currently estimated to be about 50 pence, unacceptably high. More than 10 million cards for automatic tellers are currently in use.

But the role played by British Telecom, which will have its majority shareholding in the private sector by the 1986 proposed deadline for the retailing pilot scheme, will disturb many politicians from both sides of the House of Commons. The Telecommunications Bill which is currently making its way through parliament

will create a private company out of the state-owned corporation and empower the government to dispose of it.

It is the declared intention of the government that the disposal will begin this autumn. That will take place in one tranche assuming the proper response to the sale. Fifty one per cent of the corporation will then be in private hands.

Whatever happened to the promises of the Government that the telecommunications would be liberalised in Britain? Mercury has been given a licence to operate in competition with British Telecom but that position is to be protected for the next seven years, according to government policy. Even in full flight, and Mercury is far from that stage at the moment, the privately-owned telecommunications group will find it difficult to compete against Telecom's established networks. What hope has any competitor in the future which finds BT is not only the dominant force in telephony but that it also controls network transferring electronically the bulk of money accruing from retailing?

The idea of such a network is good in theory since the cost of processing money is clearly reflected in the price of money itself and the goods that are subsequently bought. Last year about 2,500 million cheques were processed by the clearing banks and a further 100 million pieces of paper by the credit/payment card holders. The mountain of paper must be eliminated, the banks believe.

A study group was set up several years ago by the banks and its work is about to come to fruition. That will mean a contract being awarded IBM and British Telecom jointly for the design of the national cashless shopping network.

At each outlet there will be an electronic point of sale (EPOS) terminal. The girl at the checkout will press buttons according to a predetermined code which will fully define the sale and the item sold. An alternative would be to pass the item, which is coded with some form of bar code, underneath a laser, either handheld or fixed to the checkout. Either way each sale will be communicated to the retailer's own computer and the reordering process begins.

THE WEEK

Bill Johnstone

In turn the retailer's equipment will communicate with the customer's and retailer's banks to ensure a swift transfer of the monies resulting from the purchases.

No contract has yet been awarded to either British Telecom or IBM although it appears that it is but a formality. In theory once the network is designed any supplier can bid for the relevant equipment contract but British Telecom will, as the network provider, be in an unassailable

position as a supplier of equipment to be attached to the network.

A study completed about a year ago by Retail Management Development Programme (RMDP) of Brighton identified the EPOS area as having enormous commercial potential. It had concluded that such networks would grow eightfold between 1982 and 1986. EPOS systems are being used and developed by more than 60 groups at present. They will grow to 200 by the end of the year, the principal users being national retailers and supermarket chains.

The Brighton group has been commissioned again by British Telecom to test the market further and provide the data on which the network design will be based.

In a letter to retailers RMDP says: "British Telecom is investigating the possibility of entering the EPOS market as a direct competitor. . . . British Telecom's entry could have a major impact on the EPOS market, affecting systems design and price structures radically. The fact that British Telecom is a major telecommunications supplier in the country and a supplier of other information technology equipment underlines this."

There are many supporters of privatisation that are only too well aware of the power of British Telecom and its influence on the telecommunications industry, yet wince at the growth of the corporation in the last two years. Office equipment, word

processors, microcomputers and cable television have all been embraced by British Telecom, which as a private company will become one of the most potent independent forces in the British electronics industry. Now the company is to add electronic point of sale to its portfolio.

The supporters of the privatisation programme have constantly claimed that competition will constrain British Telecom. But the corporation, as the guardian of the national network, will continue for some time, to allocate major equipment contracts. In the private sector it will continue to do so and probably more frequently than it does at present, if its current growth is any measure. No company, British or otherwise, can afford to ignore its prominence nor run foul of it by engaging in direct competition. Is that fair or even effective competition?

Competition can be a constraining force. There is none on any significant scale either in the provision of equipment or in the supply of telecommunications circuits despite the political rhetoric to the contrary.

If the EPOS project of British Telecom-another example of its exponential growth-does not disturb the supporters of free enterprise and their political opponents, then it should.

*TSB, Co-Op, National Giro, Bank of England, Barclays, Coutts, Lloyds, Midlands, Natwest, Williams & Glyn, Clydesdale, Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland.

Software links with US

A software shop in London's microcomputer hardware, business and games quarter off the Tottenham Court Road is to begin a unique import-export business devoted to educational software.

The Pilot Software shop has linked up with Soft-Kat, America's biggest distributor of what are dubbed "personal development packages," by the micro-literati over there. "We'll bring several hundred new educational titles into Britain for the first time," said Pilot's manager Kevin Robinson.

A two-way flow of software follows from the deal: US titles largely for the Commodore 64 and priced anywhere from £8 to £40 coming into Britain; specially written or re-written UK titles for the popular US machines finding their way to that huge market for the first time.

Soft-Kat was one of the first American distributors to begin collecting educational titles, notching up 14 million dollar sales last year. Pilot will distribute to the major High Street chains, all of whom have experience in sales of educational software.

W. H. Smith is taking a big stride in the distribution of business software following a link up with Soft-Kat, possibly the largest distributor of business software in the US. The new venture, aimed primarily at computer dealers, will trade by the name of WHS Software and provide a next day nationwide delivery service for a large range of business software drawn mainly from Soft-Kat's US catalogue.

WHS Software will be providing dealers with full technical support and back-up services.

Just launched, the more strenuous video game - an exercise bike linked to a screen. The faster you pedal, the faster you can escape from a "red monster" chasing you through a maze on the screen. By pressing a button on either side of the handlebars you can plan your progress on the screen.

The game links a PAC-MAN video game of a conventional static exercise bike. The video/programme has been developed by Malden-head based systems builders Micro Scope, the first company to open an office at the new Warwick University Science Park.

Mr Tony Waddington who developed the new project, said: "We are now working on a kit so that you can use your own exercise bike linked to your own micro computer by a game programme."

Each programme will be available through the BBC Telesoftware Service, on CEEFAX. Transmissions start this Friday, with two further repeats.

A new system for learning foreign languages by computer was launched last week. It is different from the traditional technique of listening and repeating used by language laboratories and schools.

The system has been designed for anyone who needs to learn the basis of a language quickly. For example, the Spanish for "bread" is "pan". The new computer project links these words together by asking the student to imagine a large pan full of bread and fixes this image in his mind.

The new language course has been developed by Dr Michael Grunberg, a senior lecturer in psychology at University College, Swansea. The program has been launched by Acronsoft, the software publishing subsidiary of Acorn Computers. The courses are available in four languages: French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Cable TV will not only mean a wide choice of viewing, but through an offshoot of British Telecom, Cable Interactive Services, it will give subscribers access to a vast range of computer software.

In an agreement signed with cable operator Rediffusion, CIS will pipe the Mocomet 800 service to those subscribers who pay an additional £9.95 a month. For this a Sinclair Spectrum joystick and modem will be provided allowing the downloading of free software from the service.

Micomet was chosen by CIS to provide the expertise for its "Gamestar Project", an off-the-shelf service available to cable operators.

With the growing popularity of robotics, as a spin-off from computers, the BBC is launching a new series devoted to the subject. "Computers in Control" is a five-part series to be presented by Ian McEwan, David and John Coll, familiar faces to viewers of the earlier "Making the Most of the Micro" shows.

There will be practical demonstrations using the ubiquitous BBC micro to control a variety of systems such as sensors, solenoids and even a ventriloquist's dummy! The software used during

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"Crash once more and you're back on the pyramids"

With Scotland expecting to produce half of the UK output of digital computers this year, the Scottish Computer Show will provide a showcase for many of the high-tech products from Silicon Glen.

The first fully operational Motorola multi-user system will be one of the show's "firsts", with the Hewlett Packard HP150 touch screen machine putting in the usual crowds.

A new range of Trionics software for the ACT Apriort, will include recipe costing for caterers, pharmacy labelling for chemists and a basic stock control system.

The show opens at the Anderson Exhibition Centre and Albany Hotel, Glasgow, on March 13, for three days.

Contributors: Jane Walton, Keith Mason, Alan Lewis and Geoff Ellis.

Schnieder Trophy makes a comeback

By Frank Brown

Despite being one of the world's leading computer companies, Digital Equipment is worried about what it sees as its low-profile image in Britain.

To remedy the situation, the company has turned to the memory of a Frenchman, Jacques Schnieder, and sponsored a new air race to commemorate the famous series of Schnieder Trophy air races he initiated in 1912. These dominated the international air racing scene for almost 20 years until Britain won the coveted trophy outright in 1931.

The new event, called the Digital Schnieder Trophy race, is a handicap event open to piston-engined aircraft up to 12,000lb in weight and has a prize money of £10,000. It will be held on June 24, and will form part of the 1984 British air racing championship, which Digital is also sponsoring.

The race will be flown over the old Schnieder Trophy course around the Solent, starting from Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. It will cover a distance of 135 miles over three laps, the finishing line being off Ryde pier.

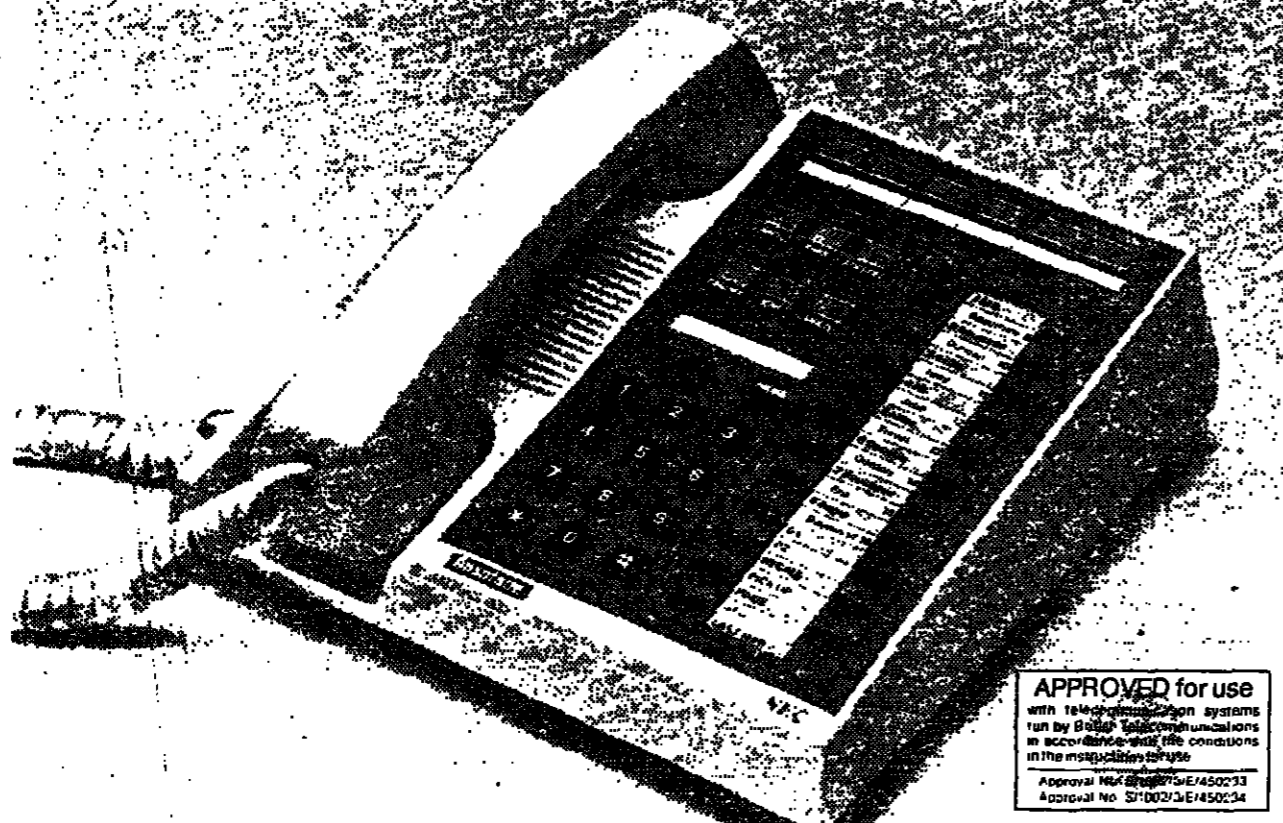
The race will be supervised by the Royal Aero Club, who will be using a Digital computer to handle all the paperwork and the processing of results. The winner will be presented with a replica of the original trophy and a Digital rainbow 100+ business computer, as well as the first prize of £2,500.

Announcing the sponsorship, the managing director of Digital UK, Geoff Shingles, said: "Despite our success in Britain, and the fact that Digital is the world's second largest manufacturer of computers, Digital's name is not well known in this country."

"We are therefore embarking on a number of projects this year to help raise our corporate visibility in all our market sectors, the major event being the re-establishment of a prestigious international air race in modern form - the Digital Schnieder Trophy."

The race has already attracted considerable interest. Inquiries have been received from the United States and Europe, as well as from pilots in the United Kingdom, from some of Digital's own employees.

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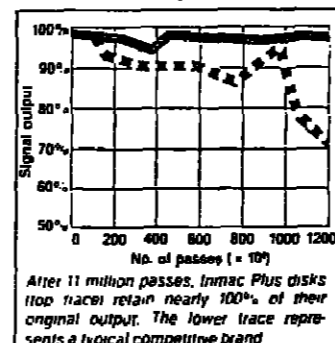
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IT Town expands its service to business

Milton Keynes Development Corporation has merged its computer department into its information technology exchange (ITEX), the IT advisory centre for businesses it set up just over a year ago, writes Frank Brown.

Michael Roberts, the Corporation's director of finance, has been appointed managing director of the exchange; and Andrew Laing, the Corporation's data processing manager, has taken over its day to day administration.

The move greatly increases the resources of the exchange, and is in line with the Corporation's aims of making ITEX the national showplace for all aspects of information technology, and Milton Keynes the leading centre in Europe for the practical applications of IT.

Roberts said: "The exchange has completed a successful first year in operation, and the time has come to broaden its activities. Information technology continues to develop at a rapid pace, and the demand for advice on how best to apply it will therefore increase - not only from businesses in the Milton Keynes area, but also from companies from all over the world who wish to set up here."

The exchange was the first of its kind to be established in the UK and enables businesses to obtain information on all aspects of information technology. Consultancy, training, and bureau services are available. In addition, a microsystems centre equipped with a variety of microcomputers and software offers visitors impartial advice on system selection and an opportunity to experiment with the systems on display.

The training resources provide a full range of courses from initial appreciation sessions to seminars on various IT topics. The integration of the Corporation's computer department into the exchange increases the numbers of specialist staff from four to fourteen, and widens the range of skills and resources offered.

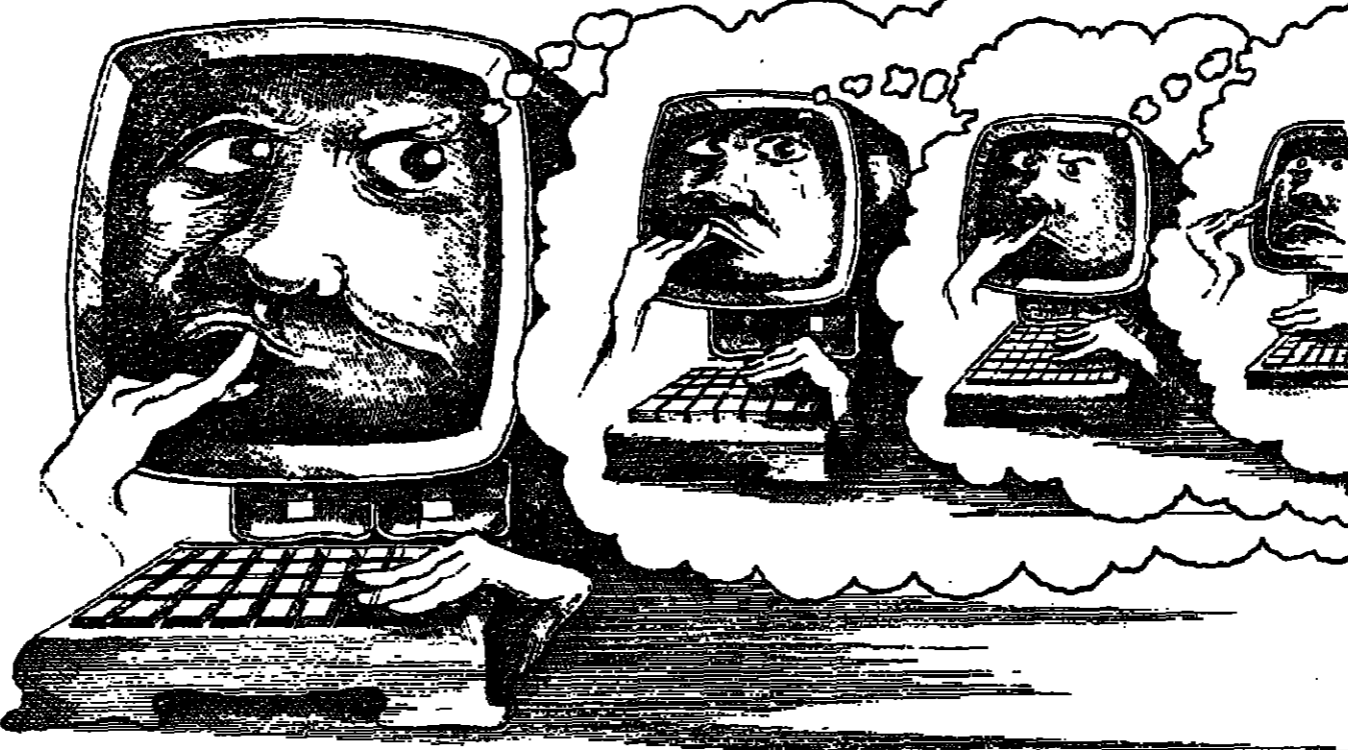
By Rory Johnston

Arguments have been going on for many years about whether computers will ever really be able to think, whether they could have minds, and whether they pose a threat to the human race. For a long time this was entirely speculation, because the actual machines showed no attributes that could have justified the concern, but recently, technical advances have started to make the old questions seem far from remote.

So it is most timely that Channel 4 has chosen to broadcast two debates on the subject of Artificial Intelligence, the first tomorrow, the second on March 14, both on the late-night discussion programme *Voices*.

Artificial Intelligence is the general term for the sharp end of computing research, where work is being done on how to make computers see, hear, comprehend language, understand the world in depth, and reason. One might expect a debate on the subject to pit a new-style computer scientist against an old-style thinker such as a philosopher, but curiously *Voices* organized one debate between two philosophers and the other between two computer scientists. The result is entertaining, even raucous, television but frustrating in its failure to shed any real light on the issues.

Free for all on the 'thinking machine'



Tomorrow night's programme entitled *New Minds for Old*, will feature Margaret Boden of the University of Sussex with John Searle from University of California, Berkeley. Boden has established herself

as a world-wide authority on AI as seen from the outside, while Searle, who is to be this year's Reith Lecturer on BBC Radio, has become best known for an elaborate proof he has devised to show that computers will

never be able to "understand" things in any way approximating to the normal meaning of the word.

The matter is of real practical concern to the computer world, because it was reasoning similar

to Searle's that led Sir James Lightfoot to torpedo most of the funding in Britain for AI research in the early 1970s.

Searle's argument, which he puts forward with gusto in tomorrow's programme, postu-

lates a man sitting in a room who is presented with bits of paper with Chinese writing on them. He has a large set of written instructions as to what to do in response to each Chinese symbol - he himself knows no Chinese.

Yet presumably he is able to hand back Chinese symbols in such a way as to make a Chinese person imagine he does understand Chinese. This is how a computer would do the same task, and, says Searle, since the man does not understand Chinese, neither does the computer.

But on reflection we realize that all Searle is saying is that neurons cannot speak English, which we all know. The man in the Chinese room is only acting as the processing unit of a computer, and that without the programme could never be thought to understand. It is the whole system, including the instructions, that understands. This refutation Boden is well aware of, but she puts it forward on *Voices* in such a polite, genteel manner that Searle is able to ignore it entirely.

Searle is, however, no religious mystic asserting the supremacy of the human soul. He says he thinks a genuine mind could be built out of silicon, but it would have to have intentionality, something which computers cannot have.

But why would it have to have intentionality? What for that matter is intentionality? And surely some computers do have it? No answers are given.

Searle seems to be making the mistake that has been very effectively skewered by Aaron Sloman, also of Sussex University, namely of thinking that entities either have minds or they don't. Sloman has shown that self-awareness in machines, plan-formation, the abilities to plan plans and generate goals, and so on have so many possible levels that it is not even true to say that there is a continuous spectrum running from minds to not-minds; instead there is a complex network of possible minds.

The motivation for Searle's concern is a worry that psychologists are taking computers as models for the workings of the human mind, something in which I agree with him entirely.

But I would say the proper conclusion is not that AI is a waste of time, but that psychology is a waste of time. In any case, computer people will surely be amused to see philosophers tying themselves in knots about the subject.

The second *Voices* debate is between Donald Michie of Edinburgh University, one of the world's leading researchers in AI, and Joseph Weizenbaum of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. One might imagine that two computer scientists would agree with each other, but in computing there are rival camps as in any field.

The debate in the programme centres around the arguments in a new book "The Creative Computer", written by Michie and myself, to be published by Allen Lane in October. This sets out to show that it is possible for computers to create things that are genuinely new - not "just what you fed in" - and that new techniques for synthesizing knowledge are going to enable computers to generate solutions to major human problems. Weizenbaum is dubious about this.

Perhaps the *Voices* programmes will stimulate more analysis of these very important issues, in a forum more suited to probing complex and highly technical subject matter than is an unstructured television debate.

The need to teach the computer common sense

From Mrs Katherine Edgcombe, St Peter's Road, Colton, Cambridge.

A number of recent articles in *The Times* have illustrated the arguments and misconceptions that still cluster round the idea of artificial intelligence and of expert systems. The latest contribution (February 17) raises some more interesting questions about what expert systems can and cannot do.

The task described (correcting a simple sentence) "should be feasible within the next 20 years" by computer. It is on the other hand, well within the capacity of an average 12-year-old: those who are dubious about the value of AI will be unimpressed.

However, even present-day expert systems can do things

which are, in human terms, enormously harder than this. Apart from the information processing and number-crunching which experts systems are used to diagnose rare diseases, predict the finding of oil, play chess at a very high level, and so on.

The difficulty of the "simple" task is surely, twofold. It requires (in addition to spelling and grammar) common sense (cars don't sit on mats) and aesthetic sense (the original word-order is clumsy and displeasing to the ear).

Teaching computers common sense must be one of the more exciting and difficult tasks ahead. Within restricted areas it can probably be done, since it depends on the collating of relevant experience and on

reasoning by analogy; it will be difficult to match human performance.

Teaching a computer aesthetic sense must surely be hopeless. Of course one can teach it rules: a computer could apply the three unities or the laws of sixteenth-century counterpoint. But an aesthetic sense can only exist in an entity capable of aesthetic response. Until a shiver can run down a computer's spine, I shall prefer my music, architecture, and even English prose to be produced by people.

From Stephen Lowe-Watson, consultant, of Syntek, St Martin's Lane, London. In "Why the computer has to be an idiot" Arnold Arnold explains why he believes that computers can never achieve artificial intelligence (A.I.) and

criticises those who 'believe' in A.I. The point is that the question of whether AI is possible is, at heart, a religious one. If intelligence is a divine gift then obviously the pursuit of AI is futile. However, if human intelligence results from the operation of a brain which is itself the product of natural selection (a completely mechanical process) then there cannot in principle be any reason why a computer could not equal or exceed the intelligence of its creator.

It may well be that those who talk of achieving AI in this century have underestimated the difficulty of the problem by many orders of magnitude. Nonetheless the assumption that it is impossible is a statement of religious belief, not scientific fact.

From Len Bottaci, Peter Ellithy and Simon Murdoch, Division of Cybernetics, Brunel University.

Verbal spaghetti, well known in ancient times, was regurgitated by Arnold Arnold. Happily we managed to break its fetters (even by ourselves) and so we have to agree with the article's conclusion that lack of proper guidance and supervision makes a fool. We look forward to the return of the All-Rational Non-Operational Logical Dictionary which was unfortunately damaged in the combinatorial explosion.

From M. J. Foskett, of Bethune Avenue, London W. Attention has been on the minimal part computer education plays in schools today. Primary school children are now doing computer studies but

on transfer to secondary school there seems to be no provision for them to continue this aspect of their education until they reach the fourth or fifth year.

However, one learns that a ten-year-old primary school boy has passed a City and Guilds computer examination, the youngest to have achieved this. Are children of this remarkable ability to be neglected in secondary schools?

It must be recognized that there will be more and more children now reaching a high standard at an early age. Is it not time that the public schools were recognizing this and making capital for this country's future by offering scholarships to children who are gifted in this very new technology. (Why is it that only music is worthy of a scholarship?)

Computer Appointments

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In keeping with our aim of maintaining the position as the foremost Gilt Specialists in the UK, we wish to expand our Computer Department with the following appointments:

1. HP-3000 SYSTEMS MANAGER

Our HP3000 system includes a Series 68 Processor with 6 x 0.4 gigabyte disc drives plus two Series 48 processors each with 2 x 0.4 gigabytes of storage. These are connected by DSN link. This position involves full responsibility for all aspects of our computer systems. Previous experience with 3000 systems is essential.

As this is a small team progression will be entirely as a result of individual achievement and initiative.

Both these appointments are in the City of London. Salary is negotiable and will reflect the importance of each position.

Reply in writing to 66 Warnford Court, Throgmorton St, London, EC2.

2. PROGRAMMER

Our software support team require an additional Programmer to assist with program development and maintenance of our fast expanding system. Previous hands-on experience with an HP system is important and a working knowledge of HP Basic would be an advantage.

UK Events

Education Software Fair, Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, March 2-3.
OEM Only Conference Hilton Hotel, London W1, March 7.
Computer Trade Show, Westbury Conference Centre, March 13-15.

Scottish Computer Conference, Holiday Inn, Glasgow, March 13-15.

The Second British Computer Society Jubilee Lecture, The Royal Society, London SW1, March 14.

Electronics & BBC Micro User Show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, March 29-April 1.

Computer Aided Design, Met. Exhibition Hall, April 3-5.

Artificial Intelligence Seminar, City University, London, April 7-8.

Sir Frederic Osborn School Computer Fair, Sir Frederic Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, April 8.

Computer '84, Cardiff University, April 10-12.

Horst Gummer, German born, Heidelberg educated and with a lifetime in catering under his belt, reckons he has seen most kinds of deception his notoriously difficult trade has to offer.

His key to survival in the hotel and restaurant business, though it may not be the key to success, is for management to see and be seen. "You have to know not just how many bottles of spirits you have, but how much is in every bottle at any one time," he says. "And your staff have to know you know."

That kind of supervision is laborious, so Gummer, in tandem with Cara Consulting, a software house, has developed a computer program to ease the load. It has been introduced at the London Tara Hotel where Gummer is manager of the food and beverage side, and now the £3.5 million

A speedy computer cocktail

By Cindy Miles

annual sales, which are his responsibility, together with many of the actions of his 160 staff are fully computerized.

Technically the program does not do anything which could not have been done manually, he says, but the difference is speed. It gives you the information fast enough for management to do something about the problems.

Typical is the difficulty caused by new staff. "I had a new supervisor," says Gummer. "After he joined I discovered that consumption of Pernod had gone from half a bottle a week to 2 1/2 bottles. I challenged him and he admitted he had been helping himself."

This was before Gummer had his computer, but he says he was lucky. A lot of catering establishments would not pick up that kind of stock discrepancy for four to six weeks, by which time they would have lost a lot of money.

With his computerised system, he says, he could pick up such a variation within 24 hours of the weekly stock take, and move before those extra tipples became a habit," he says. "So people don't take advantage."

It is in the day-to-day control of business that the computer comes into its own. Gummer plans to list every single item of stock - in the case of spirits, the number of bottles of each brand, the cost to him, and the revenue he can expect when the contents of that bottle are sold in individual measures. Then he records what actually happens.

The benefits are obvious. He knows immediately if his yield falls below what it should be for a given amount of alcohol consumed. It could be that the bar staff are undercharging; it could be that they are helping themselves; it could be that they are using the wrong measure and are being over generous to the customer.

The great advantage on the food side when the system is fully developed will be rather different. Because the program will record the cost of all ingredients, every time the price of raw material rises, Gummer can see at a glance how much this adds to the cost of the dish in the restaurant.

So if the price of cream doubles overnight, he knows the next morning exactly how much extra he has to charge for Beel Stroganoff, or more likely, how much smaller he has to make the portion to maintain his profit margin.

He is already using this system to chart the price of cocktails - currently enjoying a revival of popularity. The Tara offers 60 and, says Gummer, it is hard enough to train the staff to remember what goes in each, without expecting them to know the cost of every ingredient. Again, the new system solves the problem.

All the ingredients are listed and the computer calculates how much should be charged for the total. And when lemon goes up in price, or when the Chancellor slaps on another levy, the new rates are available, almost at the press of a button.

COMPUTER PERSONNEL VACANCIES

PROJECT LDR & ANALYST, N. Midx

The well established computer services Bureau wish to recruit a number of Analysts and a Project Ldr. Applicants for the Analysts vacancies should have gained at least 18 months analysis experience with some knowledge of Honeywell Level 6. For the Project Ldr position the company are more interested in leadership potential and supervisory experience, than hardware background. Successful applicants will become immediately involved in the development of new systems including commercial accounting and fleet management. The company offers a competitive salary based upon experience as well as a very comprehensive benefits package. REF TJ 7849.

C£13K, £8-12K

GRADUATE ANAL/PROG, London

A well established software house based in Central London are looking to recruit VAX/VMS-BOL professionals at all levels. A degree would be preferable, but not essential. Candidates should ideally come from a commercial background with financial experience being a distinct advantage. Work will be based both in-house and on client site. This is a superb opportunity for ambitious people to work in an exciting and interesting environment. Excellent fringe benefits accompany these posts, which are unique to the individual, with a salary to match. REF TJ 7852.

To: £14,500

VARIOUS/DEC-VAC, London

A well established software house based in Central London are looking to recruit VAX/VMS-BOL professionals at all levels. A degree would be preferable, but not essential. Candidates should ideally come from a commercial background with financial experience being a distinct advantage. Work will be based both in-house and on client site. This is a superb opportunity for ambitious people to work in an exciting and interesting environment. Excellent fringe benefits accompany these posts, which are unique to the individual, with a salary to match. REF TJ 7852.

£ EXCELLENT

PROGRAMMER & ANAL/PROG, C. London

Based in Central London, this rapidly expanding banking organisation require an additional Programmer and Analyst/Programmer. IBM System 34 and 38's are used, consequently RPG II and RPG III are the current languages. A min of 1 years exp of RPG II gained on IBM System 34 is required for the Programmer position (any RPG II useful). This also applies to the Analyst position as required from any applications background, excellent salaries are offered and full banking benefits. This is a great opportunity for applicants wishing to gain RPG III. Systems 38 exp as immediate training is given. REF TJ 7814.

Ex. Sals. Dep on Exp

ANALYST/PROG (PETROLEUM) C. London

An internationally known oil company running a variety of IBM mainframes and micros are looking for an Analyst/Programmer to work on technical applications pertaining to the petroleum industry. Due to the depth of involvement with applications, a good technical knowledge of the oil industry or a closely related field is required. This may be either prior to or concurrent with their OP experience. A knowledge of IBM hardware is also required, either as a Programmer (any language) or an Analyst, as the position contains elements of each. Training is available for an individual with the right applications and hardware knowledge. In addition to a competitive salary, a comprehensive benefits package is provided. REF TM 7752.

C£14,000

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS, Surrey

Having a commitment to the development of new systems, several vacancies have arisen for Systems Analysts within a large IBM user based in Surrey. The successful applicants will work on a wide variety of commercial applications. Experience of IBM mainframes in an on-line and database environment is required, a programming background would also be desirable. Highly competitive salaries dependent on experience and excellent benefits including relocation expenses, Life Insurance, Pension schemes etc, compliant these positions. REF TP 7712.

Negotiable, Dependent on Experience

SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROJECT LEADER, Barks

A successful and expanding computer bureau is currently seeking a System Analyst/Project Leader. The company have undertaken a major development program using the latest structured techniques to design and write new portable applications software. The position will involve controlling a production control system from initial study/design through to implementation. Duties will include a large amount of user liaison as well as managing a small team of Programmers. Applicants should have previously implemented two systems of which one should be a production control system. The company offers a competitive salary combined with 4 weeks holiday, pension scheme, Christmas and sports facilities. REF TA 7850.

C£14,000

SENIOR ANALYST/PROJECT MANAGER, City

A vacancy has arisen for a Senior Analyst/Project Manager within this well established and progressive systems consultancy, specialising in DEC. The company sells complete Turn-key systems and offers a variety of work in an exciting and friendly environment. The successful applicant will initially be involved in controlling projects from design to implementation, within the music industry. Sound knowledge of DEC PDP, VMS and BASIC is combined with good analysts experience is required. Applicants should be 25-35, good communications and able to work on own initiative. REF TA 7850.

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Two men to overtake the Japanese

Can two men overtake the entire national might of Japan, beat IBM and simultaneously lay the foundations for a new era in computing?

The answer, if it names the two men as father and son computer designers Gene and Carl Amdahl, is looking more and more like an unqualified yes.

Recalling that the Japanese Fifth Generation Computer project is a nationally resourced endeavour to produce an altered society, based on an as yet unbuilt computer, and remembering that the "payload" to be carried by that computer is user programming in ordinary language, it is easy to see how the Japanese arrived at the raw horsepower for the machine.

A little like how electricity in the mains is loosely described in volts, the Japanese used a single term, LIPS, for logical instructions per second, to describe the target output for the system.

The term LIPS, complex though it is, carries an implication of staggering complexity in relation to the system that will output in terms of LIPS.

To do one LIP, in a ear, never mind in one second, the computer driving it has to take spoken English as the input, convert that into computer machine code, call down both a programming and subject data base, write its own program for that particular request, find the data for the program to operate on, and put out the conclusion in common English.

When the Japanese launched their search for such a machine as this in 1980, not only had no such device ever been specified before outside the realms of science fiction, but the raw componentry did not exist either.

Kevin Cahill reports on the Fifth Generation

New technologies in software, hardware and semiconductor chips were needed at all levels, and it quickly became obvious to the Japanese, with so far poorly recognized assistance from Philip Treleven of Newcastle University, that the semiconductor chips in the machine would catch have to carry over one million components if the early main processors were not to be impossibly large.

The first two years of research, in Japan for the Fifth Generation computer have also pointed towards the need for a single conventional computer, known as a Von Neumann processor, after the Hungarian physicist who laid down the principle according to which most computers, including the ubiquitous micro, work. This processor would have run at around 100 million instructions per second, five times faster than the biggest current machine from IBM.

In a close relationship with the serial processor, would be a non serial processor, running at the equivalent of 10,000 million instructions per second.

The Japanese have allowed themselves 10 years to reach those specifications, but anticipate the first Fifth Generation type machines around 1987/1988.

Which is where the Amdahls and their Trilogy Corporation come back into the picture. Working from a completely different angle to the Japanese, Dr Gene Amdahl, in order to increase speed in the machine he is building lengths by shortening circuit and in order to achieve manufacturing economies that would enable him to build his devices cheaper than IBM, has created a chip which



Gene and Carl Amdahl... father and son team

measures 3x3 and which contains well in excess of 1.5 million discrete components on its surface.

According to Dr Gene, 30 of those super chips have been built so far, using equipment specially designed for the task, and which has cost more than 50 million dollars to buy.

Conventional chips, most of which carry no more than 50,000 to 100,000 components, are made 100 to a wafer of silicon. Dr Gene's chip is created using a whole wafer, with yields (ie usable chips), that are the equivalent to those obtained with conventional chips, meaning that there is little 'chip for chip' saving using his use methods so far.

Where the savings come, and they are of the order of 3 magnitudes over current costs according to Dr Gene, is in the elimination of huge printed circuit board layers and interconnects between chips, sometimes as many as 14 layers thick, which characterise current mainframe structures in IBM machines.

In gambling terms Honeywell, the fifth ranking computer company in the US, invested 'blind' in Dr Gene's company Trilogy in 1980, when the first chip was still two years away. During 1983, as the first prototype chips emerged from the super clean, robotic 'clinic' in which they are created, engineers from the No 2 US computer company DEC, following similar studies by Sperry engineers, reported positively to their managements and both companies invested in Trilogy.

The cash that could flow from chips

DEC, as well as investing in Trilogy Corporation, have licensed the Trilogy chip technology for use in their own products. The company has also embarked on its next computer range, successor to the VAX minicomputer, using Trilogy technology. More than that, DEC has also taken an option to build a chip factory with Trilogy

in California before the end of this year.

Now that it looks as if a substantial part of the Trilogy income will come from chips, as opposed to the mainframe computer which the company was set up to build, it is fascinating to hear Dr Gene acknowledge that he had not foreseen this eventually. "Up to 50 per cent of Trilogy's revenues could come from chips", he notes.

But is his chip the Fifth Generation foundation stone it looks like? What about the Immos transporter?

"The Trilogy chip is designed to be part of a very high performance computer. It is not intended to be used in the same way as the Transputer", Dr Gene says.

The Fifth Generation project Dr Gene sees as a determined bid by the Japanese, not to achieve domination of the

world computer industry, but to break the stranglehold on the heart of the industry currently held by IBM.

In this objective the Amdahls and the Japanese share a passionately held common viewpoint. This is that IBM dominance has two serious effects on the computer world.

Firstly, its market dominance makes it the de facto standard, a position which enables IBM to exercise virtual control over world computer markets.

Secondly IBM's position means that it is uneconomic for other producers to engage in the creation of new mainframe designs.

Not only that, it also means that IBM has a huge measure of the world's limited pool of computer architects, and in the end the company produces only one new mainframe every five years, implying that all - about 60% of world potential - other designs produced within the company are rejected.

On these matters Dr Gene is an authority. In 1960, Tom Watson, then chief executive of IBM, bet the entire company's future on the success of the mainframe that Dr Gene had designed and was building for the company. His bet proved the most decisive move ever made by a computer company.

The machine's architecture, - that is to say the principles according to which the machine performs its tasks - remain virtually unchanged to this day in terms of current IBM mainframes.

This is known as compatibility, the constraint whereby successive machines must run programmes written for their predecessors, and is the defining characteristic of the new mainframe which Trilogy had currently in the engineering prototype stage.

Next: Veneration by the Japanese.

Computer Appointments



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- * expertise in point of sale and in-store microcomputer systems.
- * and a record of success in the planning, control and implementation of major projects.

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BBC micro deal on Australian TV

By Paul Walton

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation is to receive a royalty on sales of the BBC microcomputer in Australia in return for screening the BBC computer literacy series on "prime time" television for March 1. The deal marks the start of an export drive by Acorn Computers, which designed and now markets the machine.

The ABC is understood to have negotiated a ten per cent royalty, or around £40 for each British Broadcasting Corporation microcomputer (as they must be described outside of the UK) sold. Acorn's British sales have reached 250,000 since 1982.

This royalty is comparable with that which the BBC receives from Acorn Computers. However, the ABC will be paid its royalty not by Acorn but by the Cambridge-based firms Australian distributor, Barson Computers in Melbourne.

It is only the second such deal where a television company benefits directly by promoting the BBC series and its accompanying microcomputer.

When Acorn launched the BBC micro in America last year it is reputed to have paid the National Broadcasting Corporation there nearly a million dollars to screen the BBC series. It now claims to be "inundated" with orders from the US to the tune of 50 million dollars.

Mr Bob Bayham, managing director of Acorn International, said "In Australia, Barson Computers decided that they could afford to pay the ABC a

royalty for prime time television showings of the BBC's computer literacy series.

"They're sure that this will result in a considerable increase in sales, and hence their profits, as has been our experience in America when the programmes were shown in the evenings rather than during the schools programmes during the day. It is the best kind of advertising you can get."

Acorn will also begin its first ever British TV advertising campaign next month, extolling the business as well as the educational uses of its BBC microcomputer. The company will spend around £250,000 on such publicity this year.

Mr Bayham said that Acorn will also be greeting a delegation from the Indian Government in March. It will comprise representatives of the Government-backed firm which is to assemble the BBC microcomputers in India, and of the Indian Broadcasting Authority which also wants to screen the BBC TV series.

Acorn has made contact with the Chinese authorities, who are also looking for an educational microcomputer and accompanying teaching materials, but Bayham said that prospective orders with the People's Republic "are still some way off."

Acorn is just beginning to take export initiatives in Italy, Sweden and Spain, whose Government's are also interested in mounting computer literacy programmes in their schools.

Last chance to compete for a micro

THE TIMES

National Microcomputer Challenge

All entries must be accompanied by 12 differently dated mastheads from the front of the Times and also by this form completed in full and signed where required. Entries must be despatched to arrive at the competition address below by FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1984.

To: The Times National Microcomputer Challenge, 43 Bedford Row, London WC99

FULL NAME OF ENTRANT

Mr/Mrs/Ms

OCCUPATION

AGE

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE Daytime

Evening

Please complete this section if you are representing a club, school or other organized group, or will be helped by a sponsor in the preparation of your entry.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

NAME OF SENIOR PERSON RESPONSIBLE (eg Club Chairman, Teacher, Director)

Mr/Mrs/Ms

ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION (or person responsible)

TELEPHONE Daytime

Evening

Declaration: I hereby agree to abide by the Rules of the Times Microcomputer Challenge. I declare that the material entered is original material devised by the entrant(s) and has not been published, displayed or demonstrated elsewhere. As such it will in no way violate any copyright existing before, on or after the competition date.

SIGNATURE OF ENTRANT

DATE

SIGNATURE OF OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE (as named above)

DATE

Please note: If the entrant is entering as an individual and is aged under 18 at time of signature, this form must be countersigned by a parent or guardian.

This week is the last opportunity to enter the National Microcomputer Challenge, which is open to all readers of *The Times*. Closing date for entries is Friday March 2.

The aim of the competition is to find the best original use of a microcomputer for a socially useful purpose, such as a novel computer program or an innovative use of a computer peripheral. Ideas may involve any type of microcomputer.

The competition will be in two stages - regional and national. All the entrants need to do at the first stage is to submit in no more than 1,000 words a proposal describing the project and its benefits and ensure that the entry is accompanied by 12 differently dated mastheads from the front of *The Times* - that is, the title at the top of Page One with the date below it.

Judging will take place in 10 regions and the winner in each region will receive a BBC Microcomputer Model B, provided by Acorn Computers. There will be a second prize of a £50 W. H. Smith voucher and a £30 voucher for third prize.



The Department of Trade and Industry has agreed to host the ten judging sessions at its regional offices. Other judges will be nominated by the British Computer Society and Acorn Computers.

The second stage will be the national final in which the ten regional winners will be asked to demonstrate their ability to put their proposals into practice, making use of a microcomputer. It is emphasized that entrants will not, for example, be expected to provide a complete

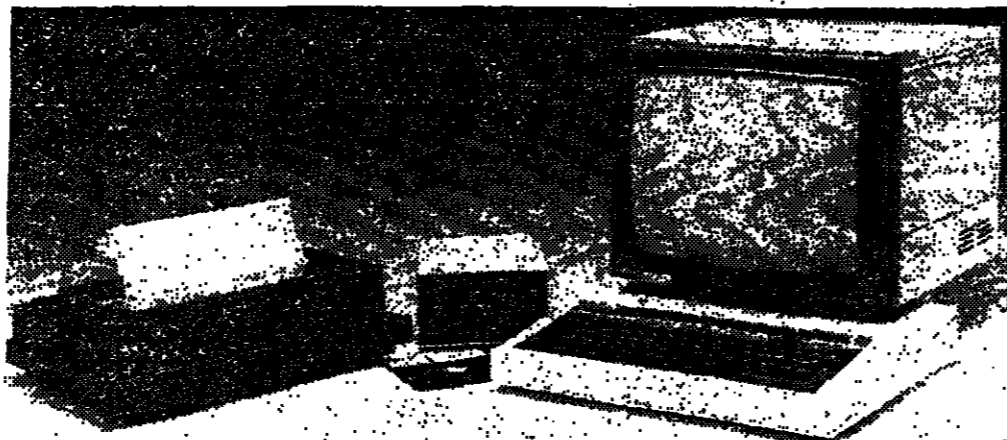
professional program or working model, but only to give some evidence of the practicality of their original idea.

The national judging and prizegiving will take place on April 18 as part of the London Computer Festival and the results published in *Computer Horizons* on May 1.

You may enter as an individual or as a representative of a project group for a club, school, college or company. If you represent a group, you will be required to provide the name of the person responsible for the group. The prizes, therefore, may be won by an individual or on behalf of a group.

As a guide to those still seeking a purpose for their entries, there are many opportunities, for instance, for helping the handicapped.

Complete details of the competition and further entry forms may be obtained at W. H. Smith shops selling computers and software, or in writing from the competition address: The Times National Computer Challenge, 43 Bedford Row, London WC99.



Ten BBC micros to be won

REGIONAL WINNERS: Ten 1st prizes - BBC Microcomputer Model B. Ten 2nd prizes - £50 W. H. Smith voucher for computer goods. Ten 3rd prizes - £30 W. H. Smith voucher.

NATIONAL WINNERS: 1st prize - Full BBC Microcomputer System, including BBC

Microcomputer Model B, Disc Storage System and either a 14in colour Video Monitor or a "Sparkjet" Printer. 2nd Prize - £100 W. H. Smith voucher for computer goods. 3rd prize - £50 W. H. Smith voucher.

Since its launch in January 1982, the BBC microcomputer

has become a firm favourite with educational establishments.

With high-resolution colour graphics, a fast Basic, and three channel sound, the BBC micro has become not only a popular games playing machine but has gained a wide acceptance in small business applications.

How many middle men do we need?

An interface is a concept which involves the specification of the conditions necessary for interconnection between two parts of a system which have different functions. Handbook of Data Communications, published by the NCC.

You cannot be much more authoritative than that, even if you think it could have been put more elegantly. Interface is a term now spreading into wide use outside its previous technical confines and to which usage there is often objection, objection usually found among those liable to write in the front half of the paper.

Actually, they are wrong to object. If the term did not exist we would have to invent one to describe the condition. Connect, transfer, translate simply will not do. Interface, like program, defines a condition which one can perhaps best think of as the interconnection of different intellectual states, one or more of which is executed in electronic form, nowadays mostly digital.

I wrote last week of the distinction between hard and fuzzy data, as costs of storage fall and volumes of data mount, more and more hard data becomes digitalised. More and more does it become the province of machines.

More and more does the absurdity of people interfacing between machines become apparent. That is so, fundamentally, economically and in terms of efficiency and speed.

So why is it still often necessary? We tend to forget that for all the manufacturers' hype, the technology was not imposed top down by any one manufacturer.

Making complex systems work, and indeed making the complex system themselves, making them interconnect, requires the connection of equipments and programs built to different concepts, ideas, and just plain 'it was all that was possible at the time' possibilities.

A new central processor may well end up connecting artefacts which have roots at anywhere in time over the last forty to fifty years.

Our problem then is to impose standards on that collection, to make creators, manufacturers, and users to work to the same interfacing standards. This is not something that dominant manufacturers in any field are likely to approve of, for it unlocks the pace of change and their ability to control a market.

Nevertheless, it is happening. Most standards unfortunately happen after the event. They arise as the result of agreements

made after the need to interconnect equipment has already arisen. However, as more and more interfaces are agreed, a clever manufacturer can organize his product to allow interconnection with devices still to come.

Thus, for instance, Sinclair Research on its new machine the QL an IEEE 488 interface for control devices, of which there are as yet few aimed at the home market.

All this is simply a recognition of the fact that almost anything that can be digitalised

Rex Malik continues his study of changes in a computer society

is at some stage of being so. As important are developments in what is known as the man machine interface, of which a good example, to go back to the handbook, is the dial of a telephone. Making interconnection easier, whether of machines or of people and machines is the trend. It is the next stage in the development of the technology and its markets.

All this, once it is laid out, is very obvious. The consequences however may not be. Charles Read, Director of Information Technology at the Post Office and chairman of the government's ITAP, has for some time been publicly saying that "all interfaces are dead".

This, you might think, is the reverse of the trend I have been describing. He has not, however, been talking about machines, but about people substituting for machines, the consequences of the interfacing of digital electronic systems.

What he means is that if your work consists primarily of handling data which can be made subject to clear, well-formulated, and machine-replicable rules, of acting as an intelligent interface between data coming in in one form and going out in another, if your work does not have fuzzy connections and does not involve directly subjective judgement as an inherent part of the skill, then the future prospects are bleak.

Now what is interesting here is that those whose jobs are challenged may not simply be those at the bottom of the ladder, but many of those part way up it. In a recent study of the insurance industry, the Technical Change Centre has noted what one can call the saddle effect: that the demands and skills are being increased on those at the top and the bottom

of the organisation, and those in the middle have been, and are continuing to be, squeezed.

What happens in insurance is likely also to happen to other rule-bound areas, particularly those obvious ones, finance and the law. There is for instance no intrinsic reason why routine stockbroking, where the customer knows exactly what he wants should not simply be squeezed, but as far as people are concerned be eliminated, and handed over to systems.

Why in the future should one not be able to deal directly from home via a home terminal and telecommunications at the same time directly debiting one's own bank account and making a transfer?

Do we actually need stockbrokers in order to create a market and a price? And what happens to solicitors? Conveyancing may currently be under challenge as a solicitors' monopoly, but it is really necessary to have the process that now exists?

The question follows: does the economic basis of the legal or financial industries really require these underlying beds of routine activity involving people to maintain a sufficiency of practitioners?

One tends to forget that once a rule is placed on an easily accessible electronic digital system, and once enough copies are distributed around, we have something new. Easily accessible records can be available next year or even for two thousand years.

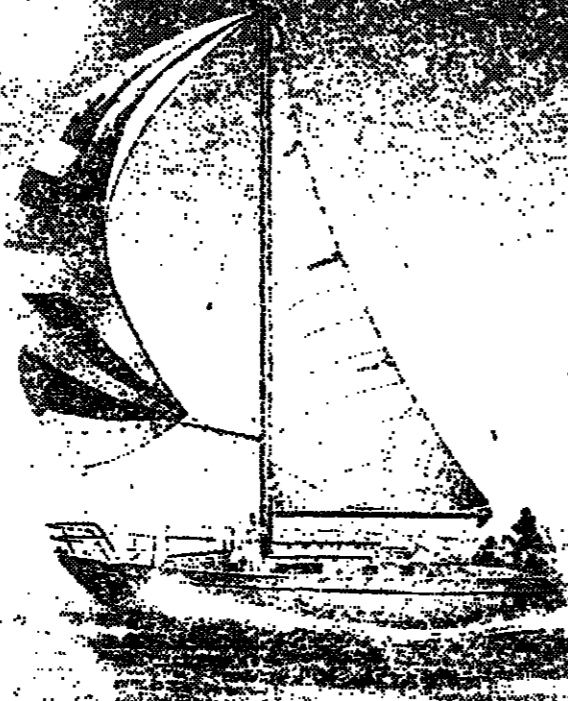
So, if you are of high ambition, and you choose to work in areas not primarily dependent on creative or fuzzy skills, then any reading of the entrails would indicate that you should change. If faced with someone starting out in life who wishes to enter the law, one should advise becoming a barrister rather than a solicitor, or in finance an investment analyst rather than a stockbroker.

But before panic sets in, the bleakness of the future in interface occupations is not simply a function of falling prices and technology change; it has also much to do with an innate conservatism within occupational fields and organizations.

Charles Read is right, but for the Read prediction to happen with any speed we must look elsewhere. Does the government intend to protect the legal rulebound monopoly whatever it may be. Is there going to be increased competition, and will that competition be reflected in the prices charged.

Next: Do the changing circumstances make the existing education system obsolete?

When it comes to expanding your computer, which will it be?



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Esmond Hart: from losses to profits

Making 70 micros happy

By Dennis Freeman

Esmond Hart spent five years developing a microcomputer operating system, and the software to go with it, that would be "portable" able to run on virtually any computer.

Success, he claims, was in sight when, after a £2m investment, CAP, one of Britain's oldest software companies sacked its entire "Micro-soft" division.

Esmond Hart and four senior colleagues decided to save their project. They each put up £10,000 of their own money and bought the division from CAP.

They invited two-thirds of the Microsoft staff to join them, and in early 1981 formed Micro Products Software, makers of BOS business software.

"In the April that we took over the company we did £47,000 worth of business and made a profit," says Hart. CAP (Microsoft) had been losing £20,000 a month.

The new company now employs about 60 people, has a dealership network of 300 retailers in the UK and markets its products in 10 countries.

Last year, Hart estimates, MPSP made a profit of £350,000 on sales of £2m.

BOS software includes all the standard business and office systems: payroll, inventory control and wordprocessing. All control and wordprocessing. All programs are written in Micro-Cobol, which is the language of the BOS operating system. BOS, then, is like CP/M or MS-DOS, but can be used with single-user, multi-user or networking computers.

What makes BOS software unique is that it can be used without any alteration whatsoever on any of 70 micros. All the user has to do is buy a diskette which adapts the BOS operating system.

A typical software manufacturer, says Hart, will have "28 versions of his sales ledger, all confusingly similar, to run on different machines." BOS has one sales ledger but 28 versions of its operating system.

What's the difference, the consumer may ask. Hart answers:

"Suppose you have just bought the latest WorldBeater Micro. When you buy version number 29 of our typical sales ledger package, the odds are it will have bugs in it that have not yet been worked out. The BOS sales ledger, however, has already been tested in hundreds of offices over four or five years. Even if the hardware is new, it will run a proven product.

"If now, you want to upgrade your system, all you do is buy a BOS interpreter which will put the BOS operating system on the new machine, and your software and data will transfer right over.

"Other software will not transfer as easily, even from one CP/M machine to another; you'd have to take all the source code and recompile it, putting in fixers here and there to take account of different diskette formats, and so on," he said.

In search of a treasure to keep the system going

By Mark Stone

Computer technicians and engineers need to know more about maintenance, repair and overhaul of electronic equipment in-house, and with this in mind, a new company, Trackdown Technology Training of Markyate, Herts., is offering a range of short-duration training courses specifically designed for this sphere.

The company says: "Recently the speed with which manufacturing industry has adopted electronically-based plant and equipment systems has resulted in a serious lack of technicians and engineers qualified to carry out even the most basic of servicing and repair work."

"In the main, such work is still the function of specialist service engineers employed by the original equipment manufacturer. This means heavy costs for user companies before normal production can be resumed."

In addition to costly downtime, there is a heavy hourly charge rate for engineer's time which usually starts the minute he leaves his base. To this must be added the cost of any replacement parts that may be required and the user company can be faced with a very large bill for a repair that an in-house maintenance technician could have done more cost-effectively.

Many companies have tried to recruit such men but they have met with little success. Such specialists are hard to find and, where available, very expensive, and Trackdown says: "It has often been the case that their employment as permanent staff is not compatible with existing wage and salary structures."

The company's courses are claimed to be tailored to suit the needs of individual companies following on-site research into the types of equipment in use. They range from helping qualified electricians to understand basic electronics and learn simple fault-tracing techniques to providing electronic engineers who need to be updated on the latest developments with instruction in microprocessor systems and relevant fault-location methods.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Plastow finally brings Vickers to surface

The 12p rise to 157p in the Vickers share price yesterday may give a clue to the City's latest thinking about this engineering giant of the past that is now making profits in diverse industrial activities. Analysts and some financial institutions have grown impatient waiting for a reshaped and trouble-free Vickers to emerge under Mr David Plastow, the chief executive who came when Vickers bought Rolls-Royce Motors just over three years ago. No one is more conscious than he that his time is limited; judgment on his strategies and management performance will not be postponed indefinitely.

Ironically, a strike at Rolls-Royce in Crewe last year cost the group £4m in lost profits. Had that not happened, Vickers performance would have come near to be matching expectations. As it is, pretax profits came out at a barely changed £19.5m, but it is surely not wildly optimistic to believe that the Plastow team has turned the corner. He sensibly warns against expecting other than a patchy recovery, without in any way degrading his belief that the years take to re-shape Vickers into an efficient, cost-conscious and market-sensitive group are beginning to bring benefits for quite small improvements in actual trading.

Rolls-Royce has been performing well, which may help to reassure those who doubt its long-term prospects. Break-even has been reduced from 3,000 to 2,000 units. Between 1,600 and 1,700 were made last year present production is about 2,200.

The high margin defence and aerospace division is seeing plenty of activity though one of its largest orders comes to an end this year. In lithographic plates and supplies profits have recovered to £10.4m, from a depressed £5.7m the previous year, and £7.1m in 1981.

Largest percentage increase in profits came from healthcare and instruments. On a 16 per cent sales rise, the profit almost tripled to £2.9m. The key is nerve testing machines from Medelec. This is

VICKERS PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Year ended December 31 1983

Principal Activities	1983	1982	1983	1982
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cars	106.8	125.6	1.1	6.2
Engineering - Australia	104.9	93.4	4.7	5.0
Lithography	90.2	76.4	10.4	5.7
Business equipment	59.8	60.0	3.4	3.2
Defence and aerospace	63.9	50.2	5.4	4.9
Marine eng	50.6	43.9	4.5	3.4
Healthcare and instruments	27.2	23.4	2.6	0.9
Design and projects	25.9	25.7	0.8	1.0
Bottling and packaging mach	21.7	24.5	0.3	1.8
Others	43.0	48.6	3.1	1.0
Total	594.0	571.7	30.1	31.1

where Vickers claim to be a world leader and it might well be looking to grow by acquisition this year.

Having disposed of South African interests and diesel engines, Vickers boast a balance sheet with almost £42m in cash. Borrowings as a percentage of shareholders funds have fallen from 43 to 31. This figure will drop further with property disposals. Vickers plans £25m of these over the next 18 months; the most important is the Millbank Tower, its present headquarters. This building cannot be sold until the 25-year rent review has been agreed which may not be until the middle of this year.

The board is paying an unchanged 8p dividend for the year, which could rise to 10p for the current year as pretax profits move towards this would still fall short of the 12p for 1981. The Vickers board has to prove that its talent for reshaping ancient monuments is combined with the skill to ensure the sustained development of new structures. Mr Plastow may also have to show a pragmatic streak if the opportunities occur for Vickers to buy back into naval shipbuilding (Barrow-in-Furness) and armaments (via the privatization of Royal Ordnance Factories). Would that amount to turning back the Vickers' clock?

Balancing the state's books

It is ironic that a government committed to the old-fashioned virtues of sound money and lower public debt should be accused of presiding over a substantial deterioration in state finances. It is perverse that this is supposed to have come about through the Government's success in reducing inflation and interest rates and its attempt to rein back public spending. Yet this is the burden of the argument presented yesterday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies which has tried to construct some kind of balance sheet of the assets and liabilities of the public sector.

The IFS points out that for many years the real value of the Government's liabilities has shrunk - by £2 billion a year in the five years to 1981-82 - because inflation eroded the value of public debt faster than new borrowing has added to it. In 1982-83, however, the sharp drop in inflation meant that new borrowing added to the Government's real liabilities, while the fall in interest rates pushed up the real price of gilts.

Prospects for the future look even worse in IFS eyes. The revenues from the depletion of Britain's oil resources are not being matched by a corresponding increase in assets, while the earnings-related

state pension scheme, which comes to fruition at the turn of the century could be adding £15 billion-£20 billion a year to the public sector's unfunded pension liabilities.

"The next few years could see an accelerated deterioration in the public sector's overall position, perhaps by as much as £20 billion-£25 billion each year. This contrasts starkly with the improvement (helped by the development of the North Sea and rapid inflation) of about the same magnitude between 1966 and 1975."

There is much to be said for getting the government to provide sensible information on its assets and liabilities, and in real terms. But a temporary fall in the public sector's net worth is not necessarily a signal for a change in policy. As the institute points out economic growth leading to a drop in the £15 billion cost of 3 million unemployed could transform the position. That, ministers will argue, is what their sound money policies are designed to achieve.

* Public finances in perspective by Mark Ashworth, John Hills and Nick Morris, Institute for Fiscal Studies, 1-2 Castle Lane, London SW1.

Government will force banks to pay interest net of tax

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The Government is to force the banks to pay interest net of tax to their personal customers, bringing them into line with the composite rate system operated by the building societies.

As foreshadowed in *The Times* on Saturday, legislation is to be introduced with the 1984 Finance Bill: the changeover is likely to take place in 1985. The move will have profound effects in the savings market and is the most significant indication yet of the Government's intention to remove "inequalities" and irregularities in the tax system.

Last week, the Government changed the rules on how building societies are taxed on their investment profits so that the societies are now taxed in the same way as banks. This

produced howls of outrage from building societies because it may double their tax bill.

The banks are likely to be equally furious about being made to pay interest net. At present they pay interest gross to customers. Although they have long complained that the composite rate gave the societies a big advantage in the savings market, they will not welcome having to operate it themselves.

A spokesman for the Committee of London Clearing Bankers said yesterday: "We would much rather have seen the composite rate abolished than have it extended to us." Bankers are also angry at the indications that the new system will not be extended to National Savings because they fear that it

may attract many of their non-taxpaying customers.

"The Government will have a monopoly of providing tax-free deposits suitable for widows and orphans and people who do not pay tax," the clearers' committee said.

Another problem for the banks is that the switch to a composite rate system will involve a huge amount of extra work. They will end up collecting tax on behalf of the Inland Revenue, which would no longer have to send tax assessments to people receiving interest from the banks.

The savings to the Inland Revenue is one of the factors which encouraged the Government to make the move. Final details of how the

system will operate have yet to be decided. However it is expected to be similar to that operated by the building societies which pay interest to depositors after deducting a special composite tax rate of 25 per cent at present. The composite rate is agreed with the Inland Revenue and is averaged out below the basic rate of 30 per cent to reflect the fact that some depositors do not pay tax.

The banks have lost out badly to the building societies over the last decade in personal savings but recently some have taken advantage of the fact that building societies are not allowed to pay interest gross and have had great success attracting savings from children and other non-taxpayers.

Feldstein warning on dollar

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr Martin Feldstein, President Reagan's chief economic adviser, said yesterday that the dollar could drop precipitously this year if no action is taken to reduce soaring US budget deficits, projected at about \$200 billion.

Mr Feldstein, chairman of the US Council of Economic Advisers, said failure of the negotiations between the administration and Congress to reduce the deficit could cause "a sharp, undesirable dip in the dollar" and lead to rekindled inflation expectations.

His remarks came even as White House and congressional negotiators indicated their deficit reduction talks were stalled and the nation's governors met in Washington to present President Reagan with



Martin Feldstein: call for modest decline in dollar

their own bipartisan proposal to cut deficits.

"The deficits have to be dealt with," said Mr James R. Thompson, the Republican governor of Illinois, who said he disagreed sharply with Presi-

dent Reagan's budget programme even though he was his campaign manager in the key state of Illinois.

Mr Feldstein, reflecting the views of European officials, indicated that it would be far better for the overvalued dollar to decline modestly this year, by about 4 or 5 per cent which is what most private forecasters think likely.

But he acknowledged that the private forecasters were wrong last year when the dollar rocketed in value.

The US policy of non-intervention which has allowed sharp swings in the dollar has been raised often in both public and recent private meetings with European officials, according to British sources who said the worst fear of many governments is a steep decline in the dollar.

Courtrules against Belloffer

By Jonathan Clare

The Victoria Supreme Court has ruled that the £145m offer by Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Resources for 16million shares in Broken Hill Proprietary is a breach of section 96 of the Australian companies code.

The judgement was made yesterday by Mr Justice Hamper in the proceedings which BHP had instituted against Bell after Mr Holmes a Court launched his second raid on the mining and steel group in less than six months.

He decided that Bell's acceptance form for its first-constituted tender offer constituted an application, which under Australian company law must be accompanied by a full prospectus.

A further hearing was adjourned until today, when the judge is expected to grant BHP, Australia's biggest company, the orders it is seeking against Bell.

Mr Holmes a Court arrived yesterday morning in London for the regular Associated Communications Corporation board meeting. He is also expected to discuss further moves at Fleet Holdings, publishers of the *Daily Express*, *Daily Star* and *Sunday Express*, where he has built up a stake of 9.5 per cent.

A meeting of the Weeks Petroleum board, where Mr Holmes a Court has become chairman after taking control of 46 per cent of the shares this month, is also expected.

The dispute between Bell and BHP over disclosure of information is not clear cut. Mr Holmes a Court and Orde Munnell, his stockbrokers, believed a full prospectus was not necessary after a meeting with the Australian National Companies and Securities Commission. It said Bell's strategy did not contravene the areas over which it had jurisdiction.

If the orders sought by BHP are granted today, Bell is likely to appeal against a clause giving shareholders a 21 day cooling-off period to decide whether they wish to withdraw.

Bell's advisers also hope they will be able to publish supplementary information rather than a full prospectus.

Hanson alleges bid breach by bank

By Jeremy Warner

Hanson Trust last night asked the Takeover Panel to grant an extension to its £247m bid for London Brick, alleging that London Brick's merchant bank, Lazard Brothers, breached the takeover code when it bought shares in the company last Friday.

The offer was due to close at 3pm today having run the full 60 days that the Takeover Panel allows a takeover battle to last and the result was expected to be extremely close.

But Hanson has now asked the Panel's executive for an "appropriate extension", alleging that many small private shareholders who might have accepted the bid had been confused by the purchase of Lazard Brothers of 375,000 shares last Friday.

The market raid led to a big jump in the share price and prompted speculation that an eleventh hour "white knight" was about to enter the battle for control.

"The purchases were not made through London Brick's official stockbroker which gave rise to speculation about a possible rival bidder," said Mr Martin Taylor, a Hanson director.

"This is in direct contravention of general principle five of the takeover code which stresses that all parties to a takeover must use their best endeavours to ensure that no false market is created in a company's shares."

It would be highly unusual for the Takeover Panel to grant an extension.

Shares of Mellins suspended

By William Kay City Editor

Mellins, the clothing firm which has in the past year been classed as one of the London stock market's Turkish "wonder stocks", is in difficulty.

Yesterday, dealings in the company's shares were suspended at 30p, down 36p on the day. Last year they were as high as 347p. A statement said that discussions were taking place "concerning a possible refinancing of the company."

A further announcement may be made later in the week.

Sources close to Mellins say that its main bank, Barclays, decided on Friday that it could not provide additional support. Barclays has put a leading firm of accountants into Mellins' offices to report on whether finance should continue to be supplied while Mellins looks for alternative sources.

The crisis follows the ending of negotiations which might have led to a merger with another company.

Stock market interest in Mellins was aroused in November 1982 when Mr Touker Suleyman bought 9 per cent of the shares and became chairman. Mr Suleyman's private firm, Kingsland, has been a big supplier of uniforms to HM Forces and speculation at one time linked him with Mr Asil Nadir of Polly Peck.

Mr Suleyman expanded Mellins last year by buying clothes businesses from the receiver of R and J Pullman. In October he announced plans to take over a jeans factory in Turkey from another failed company.

A month later the company reported a loss of £166,000 for the half-year to June, against a comparable loss of £183,000 the previous year. Mr Suleyman then added: "Mellins is now trading on a sound UK base."

Tozer seeks cashrise

Shareholders of Tozer Kenley & Millbourn (Holdings) the troubled motor trader which is being supported by its bankers, are to be asked to approve a rise in the group's borrowing limits at an extraordinary meeting on March 12.

The move is likely to be opposed by some shareholders. One said: "We will not achieve much by voting against the resolution but at least it will show that we are unhappy with the direction of the company's affairs."

Tozer is limited to having borrowings of no more than four times the size of shareholders' funds. These have been depleted in recent years by losses and write-offs.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100: 1041.3 up 4.4 (day's high: 1044.3, low 1038.8)
FT Index: 819.1 up 3.3
FT Gilt: 82.49 up 0.1
FT All Share: 493.45 up 2.15
Bargains: 27,000
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 107.29 up 0.67
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1164.78 down 0.32
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10071.48 up 23.18
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1022.85 down 25.91
Amsterdam: 169.4 up 3.5
Sydney: AO Index 745.8 up 2.2
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1039.2 up 4.7
Brussels: General Index 141.62 up 0.69
Paris: CAC Index 164.3 up 1.6

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4735 up 20pts
Index 82.7 up 0.1
DM 3.8825 up 0.01
FF 11.9450 up 0.0250
Yen 344.0 up 0.75

DOLLAR

Index 127.8 up 0.3
DM 2.6355 up 0.0060
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4735
Dollar DM 2.6365

INTERNATIONAL

ECU 0.578800
SDR 0.720391

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10-10 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month FF 16 1/2-16
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/4-9 7/8
Treasury long bond 9 3/4-9 7/8
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period January 4 to February 7, 1984 inclusive: 9.483 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Airbus aid decision on Thursday

The Government's decision on the amount of aid to grant to British Aerospace for its part in the 150-seat A320 Airbus project, is likely to be announced after Thursday's Cabinet meeting.

Bae has sought £437m of launch aid to supplement the £200m it is providing for its proposed 26 per cent share of the project.

The Government, however, has been attempting to find ways to reduce the amount of direct state aid - even though it would be refundable - by putting together a package of private funds.

● Ladbroke Group, the betting shop company, is pulling out of plans to buy Turf Paradise, a racetrack in Arizona.

● Wall Street share prices edged higher in early trading, with the Dow Jones industrial average gaining 1 1/2 points.

● Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, took home slightly less in pay, expenses, and benefits last year. The group's annual report shows his £266,034 package dropped to £264,554.

Brazil to draw in \$6.5bn loan before IMF talks

From Patrick Knight, Sao Paulo

The first \$1 billion (£685m) tranche of Brazil's \$6.5 billion loan, is to be released in ten days. Two more similar tranches will be released at weekly intervals to allow Brazil to bring all outstanding interest and other payments up to date.

There had been growing concern that the banks would not start paying out the loan until after the next meeting of the International Monetary Fund board in mid-March.

Brazil's latest special drawing rights tranche of \$380m will be paid out then. The release of this has been delayed because Brazil had to ask for a waiver of the terms of its letter of intent with the IMF because it did not

meet all debt service commitments due by the end of last year. This was caused by the delay in the final signing of the loan.

There is also growing concern that the IMF might take some action in view of the continued high level of inflation, despite a series of measures to force it down. This month's rate is likely to be more than 12 per cent, one of the worst in recent times.

There is now talk of a price freeze. Brazil's banking creditors have been pleased by the continuing good trade surplus, but they also want to see signs that the internal economy is back on course.

Production problems at Enterprise field

Threat to oil group's valuation

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Production problems at one North Sea oil field and an adverse tax ruling on another are likely to cause a reduction in the City's valuation of Enterprise Oil when the Government floats it on the stock market this summer.

The North West Hutton field, in which Enterprise holds a 25 per cent interest, is facing the kind of teething problems that are common with new North Sea developments. The field is Enterprise's single largest holding, accounting for more than half its total asset value.

The field began production last year and quickly built a production rate of more than 80,000 barrels a day, but since then things have not run so smoothly.

When the field was originally expected to reach a peak production level of 100,000 barrels a day this year, delays in

bringing in new production wells - coupled with the complexity of the reservoir - mean that production has slipped back to between 50,000 and 60,000 barrels a day. The original 100,000 barrels a day target is no longer attainable. While it would not be drawn into detailed forecasts, Amoco now believes that production is unlikely to rise much above present levels, resulting in a flatter production profile than was originally envisaged.

The total amount of oil recoverable from the field - an estimated 300 million barrels - will not be affected, however.

The new profile means that Enterprise's income from the North Sea in its early years will be lower than most analysts have been expecting. It will

inevitably lead to a down grading of estimates of the Treasury's likely proceeds from the sale, although it will not jeopardize the flotation itself.

Mr Julian West, a director of Enterprise, said: "Naturally we are aware of what is happening with North West Hutton. But it is not a problem for us." Estimates of the market value of Enterprise range from £350m to £500m, and the flotation is still expected to fall within that range.

* Profit before taxation of £19.5m is in line with that achieved in 1982, despite the effect of the strike at the Rolls-Royce Motors factory. Without this damaging event, which cost over £4m in profit, the results would have shown an encouraging increase.

* Marine Engineering and Lithographic Plates showed real growth in turnover and profit. The Business Equipment, Defence and Aerospace businesses consolidated on the good results of 1982.

* Despite significant extraordinary costs of the contraction or closure of some of the businesses, the Company has maintained its programme of capital investment in the modernisation of old plant and the further development of the main businesses.

* Continued tight cash control resulted in further worthwhile reductions in borrowing in 1983. The divestment programme, largely not reflected in cash terms in 1983, will bring further reductions in 1984.

* Improvement in the U.S. economy, coupled with the strength of the dollar, has begun to show through in the level of Rolls-Royce motor car sales in the United States. In assessing prospects, there is more confidence than before in these indicators of business recovery.

* Overall, recovery is expected to be patchy; however, the efforts of the past years to re-shape Vickers are beginning to bring benefits for quite small improvements in trading conditions.

* A final dividend of 5p per £1 Ordinary Stock (at a cost of £4.6m) is recommended by the Board, making a total of 8p for the year, all net of tax credit, which is the same as 1982.

Vickers

RESULTS FOR 1983

(Subject to final audit)

Principal activities	1983	1982	1983	1982
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Motor Cars	106.8	125.6	1.1	6.2
Overseas Engineering - Australia	104.9	93.4	4.7	5.0
Lithographic Plates and Supplies	90.2	76.4	10.4	5.7
Business Equipment	59.8	60.0	3.4	3.2
Defence and Aerospace	63.9	50.2	5.4	4.9
Marine Engineering	50.6	43.9	4.5	3.4
Healthcare and Instruments	27.2	23.4	2.6	0.9
Design and Projects	25.9	25.7	0.8	1.0
Bottling and Packaging Machinery	21.7	24.5	0.3	1.8
Other activities each with under £20m sales	43.0	48.6	(3.1)	(1.0)
Total	594.0	571.7	30.1	31.1
Discontinued activities				
Diesel Engines - normal operations	53.1	62.2	0.4	1.7
- contract cancellation compensation	-	-	1.9	2.5
South Africa	8.1	12.7	(0.6)	-
Other	-	9.5	-	-
Total	655.2	656.1	-	-
Profit before interest			31.8	35.3
Net interest payable less investment income			12.8	16.3
Profit after interest			19.0	19.0
Associated companies			0.5	0.5
Profit on ordinary activities				
before taxation			19.5	19.6
Taxation			5.6	7.0
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation			13.9	12.6
Minority interests			0.7	0.1
Profit before extraordinary items			13.2	12.5
Extraordinary items			9.3	14.5
Stockholders' profit (loss)			3.9	(2.0)
Dividends			7.7	7.7
Deficit			(3.8)	(9.7)
Earnings per £1 of Ordinary Stock			14.0p	14.1p

Redundancy costs of £2.1m (£3.1m) are included in the profit before interest which, together with a further £1.5m (£6.6m) redundancy costs on closures, and reorganisations included in extraordinary items, make a total of £3.6 (£9.7m) for the year.

The above profit and loss account is an abridged version of the full accounts which have not yet been reported on by the Company's auditors. The full Report and Accounts will be posted on 2nd April 1984. For a copy, please write to The Secretary at the address below. Stockholders

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 27. Dealings end, March 9. Contango Day, March 12. Settlement Day, March 19.

that came across the weekend
£20m above target.

the pound was one helpful factor, the gilt "repro" at the end of the week another. Also, several traders reported hearing

Most other business took place in the afternoon, with three-month certificates of deposit bought at $9\frac{1}{16}$ per cent, "sixes" at $9\frac{1}{32}$ per cent, "nines"

Interbank, overnight money traded between 9 per cent and 8½ for the most part, but reached 9½ per cent late in the session before dipping to 8 per cent offered at the close.

Adding a pfennig to its Deutschemerk value at 3.8825, sterling put on 2.5 centimes against French francs at 11.9450 and 75 points against the guilder. 4.38 but was unchanged to Swiss francs, 3.2050. It also

Just 60 points better to the Deutschmark at 2.6355 after a 2.6465 morning high, the dollar added 45 points against French francs at 8.1095 and just 10 points up on the guilder, 2.9720. It gained 20 points on the yen at 233.25 but lost 5 points on Swiss francs at 1.4317.

	Feb 24	Feb 25		Feb 24	Feb 25
Comp	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	PFG Ind	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
			Drawing Combs	45	45 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
Corporate Bond Redemption
P.O. Box 2020
1 New York Plaza—14th Floor
New York, New York 10001

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
Woolgate House
Coleraine Street
London EC2P 2HD, England

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
41 Rue Cambon 75
Paris, France

Hollandse Bank-Unie N.V.
Herengracht 434
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Societe Generale de Banque S.A.
Brussels, Belgium

Dresdner Bank Aktiengesellschaft
7 Galus Anlage
Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Banque Generale du Luxembourg S.A.
27 Avenue Montevy
Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Banca Commerciale Italiana
Piazza della Scala 6
Milan, Italy

Interest accrued and unpaid to April 1, 1984 on said Debentures will be paid in the usual manner.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ELECTRIC CORPORATION
Dated: February 28, 1984

Have

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APPOINTMENTS

Security post for McNea

Clydesdale Security Systems: Mr David McNea, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has become non-executive chairman of the company.

Tesco: Mr Dennis Tiffin, director of Tesco Stores, and head of Tesco's retail operations will join the board of Tesco on April 1.

London Permanent Building Society: Mr John Gifford Mead has resigned as chairman but remains on the board. His place as chairman is being taken by Mr John Grande.

The J D Williams Group: Mr Jim Martin has been appointed managing director and has also joined the main board of N Brown Investments, the group's parent company. He takes over as managing director from Mr D T Hand, who will remain as chairman of the J D Williams Group, and a director of N Brown Investments. Mr Robert Yates has become merchandise director of the trading companies within the J D Williams Group.

Gill & Duffus Group: Mr John S Barnes, a director, has been appointed deputy chief executive and will succeed Mr R E Blackman as chief executive on the latter's retirement on June 30. Mr Winthrop A Wyman has joined the board and will be responsible for the group's activities in the United States.

F International Group: Mr D L Davies is appointed chairman. Mr T L Bayliss becomes finance director. Mrs Steve Shirley becomes group chief executive officer and Mr Bryan E Mills and Mr George G Zahler become group directors. F International, Mr B E Mills becomes a director. F International Limited, FI Services, Mr George Zahler becomes a director. F International Group, and chairman of the export/overseas operating company, FI Services.

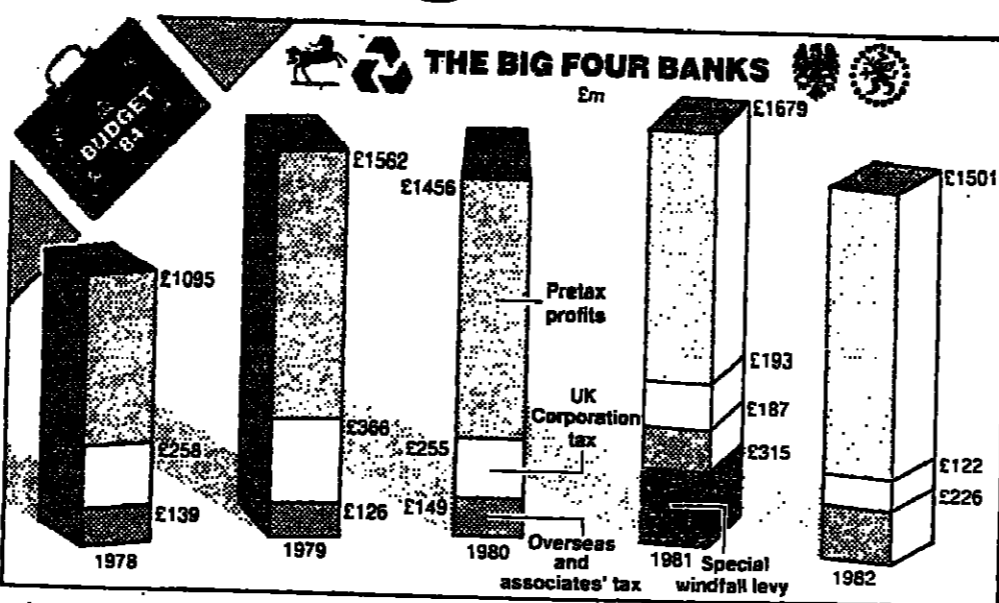
MCD Group: Mr Douglas Joll and Mr Robert Brazier have joined the board.

Miller Group: Mr Graeme R C Scott has been made group financial director and a member of the board of the parent company, James Miller & Partners. Mr D W R Adams has become sales and marketing director for Miller Homes Northern. Mr R C D Wilkins has been appointed director and general manager of Miller Homes Southern.

The Update Group: Dr John Thomas has become managing director.

Frances Williams and Peter Wilson-Smith outline Chancellor's possible next move

Now Lawson may go gunning for banks



The banks may have gained only a Pyrrhic victory from the Government's decision last week to squeeze more tax out of the building societies, their fiercest rivals, through changing the rules on profits from gilt-edged stocks.

Each privilege removed from the societies in their attempt to become more like banks threatens to focus the spotlight more keenly on the banks themselves.

Now the Budget is only a fortnight away the City is full of speculation that the Chancellor has his sights fixed on the banking sector. It is perhaps significant that the Treasury has declined to discourage the speculators.

The banks have been threatened for some time. They are unpopular, highly profitable and pay little tax - in other words, a prime target for any revenue-hungry government.

The windfall levy on deposits imposed in 1981 made ministers' intentions clear. Sir Geoffrey Howe said in his 1982 Budget that in future, the Treasury would be seeking permanent ways of ensuring "a sufficient contribution to tax revenue from the banking sector".

A study of how that might be done - broadened to include all financial services - was completed in late 1982 but was left to gather dust as the storm clouds of the international debt crisis darkened. "It would not, this year, be sensible to tighten the tax regime for banks," Sir Geoffrey conceded last year, leaving little doubt that this respite was only temporary.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor, was one of the main advocates of the original windfall tax. He lost no time in asking his officials to reopen the file last summer. Soon after, anticipating the worst, the banks revived their "fighting" committee chaired by Sir Eric Faulkner, president of the British Bankers' Association.

Mr Lawson's hint in November that taxes might have to rise this spring intensified their fears, as the experts helpfully suggested that a bank tax would be a relatively painless way of raising the extra money. Even though the Chancellor is no longer threatening a higher overall tax burden he will not have overlooked the possibility that additional revenue from the banks would enable him to cut taxes elsewhere.

The Treasury has three possible reasons for wanting more revenue from the banks. The first is that they are making big profits in this country on which they pay hardly any tax. This mainly reflects their growing leasing business which enables them to set off capital allowances for machinery and

equipment against tax liabilities, with the result that they can shelter virtually all their mainstream British corporation tax.

The banks argue that most of the tax benefits they receive from leasing are passed to their customers. A study by the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies, commissioned by the Midland Bank, lent support to this view.

It found that on average 80 per cent of the benefits were passed on, chiefly to manufacturing industry. The IFS also concluded that banks were not especially profitable. "There is no evidence of a discrepancy between rates of return in banking and in other sectors," it said, reviewing the evidence of the 10 years to 1981.

Conceivably the Treasury could try to restrict the amount of tax banks were allowed to shelter through leasing. But leasing now accounts for about a sixth of all manufacturing investment (a quarter in 1982) and the banks have the lion's share because they can claim the capital allowances and hand over the gain to companies whose profits are too low to make use of the allowances themselves. The Treasury is only too aware that a curb on leasing could hurt manufacturers as much, or more than the banks.

Secondly the Treasury might wish to use the tax system to restrain bank lending, especially consumer lending, in the interests of monetary control. A tax on consumer credit,

excluding mortgages, could have its attractions. But in equity the Treasury would be hard put to justify the singling out of credit advanced by banks alone, while the evidence suggests that people's demand for credit is not in any event very sensitive to cost.

The Treasury's final line of attack is more sophisticated. It is that the banks deprive the Exchequer and revenues on two counts: the notional interest paid on current accounts escapes income tax; and bank charges, like all financial services, are exempt from

Value-added tax (VAT).

Free banking is, in effect, a huge officially sanctioned tax avoidance device.

Domestic competition, notably from the building societies, and the need to provide against bad debt at home as well as overseas, have made further inroads into profits. Indeed, Professor Harold Rose, economic adviser to Barclays Bank, recently suggested that if the Treasury used the same logic as in 1981 the banks should be in line for a repayment of the levy this time round.

There have also been suggestions that the Chancellor might decide to bring back stamp duty on cheques, and perhaps on other debits and credit card transactions as well, as a quid pro quo for abolishing stamp duty on share deals. A 2p levy could raise £80m a year from the banks alone but would be

the EEC objection to VAT on financial services is on practical rather than principled grounds - that it has proved too difficult in the past to disentangle charges for services in banks' accounts.

This could be tackled in several ways. The banks could simply be told to introduce full bank charges, with interest being paid on current accounts, a move commended last year by the National Consumer Council.

The charges would be taxed at, say, the VAT rate of 15 per cent and deducted from the account while customers would pay income tax on the interest. Tax receipts on interest income could equal or exceed the revenue from the financial services tax. Even if banks paid the present deposit account rate of 5.5 per cent on current balances, the Exchequer would gain an extra £330m.

The Government could produce the same effect another way by taxing the notional interest credited to current accounts. This would almost certainly force the banks to introduce market-related interest payments on current accounts for fear of losing business to other financial institutions.

A less bothersome but crude alternative, suggested in some quarters of the City, would be to impose a straight pay roll tax on the banks as a broad approximation to a task on banking services.

The political and financial complexities of taxing the banking sector further make it most unlikely that the Budget will contain firm proposals for raising extra revenue in 1984-85.

There could be problems with our EEC partners over any VAT-style tax. It would also be logical to tie in the introduction of a financial services tax with any additional changes the Government plans for financial services, particularly the extension to the banks of the building society composite rate system for deducting basic income tax at source.

Which ever route the Government chooses, the banks will

Eglinton to explore Colombia resources

The Dublin-based Eglinton Oil and Gas has begun a seismic programme on its San Sebastian prospect near Loria in the Republic of Colombia. South America. It plans to drop 268 probes and evaluate them within two months.

The company said yesterday: "Recent surface work by Eglinton's geologists in Colombia have indicated that the San Sebastian anticline may encompass a larger area than originally anticipated."

On Friday shareholders will be asked to approve a placing of 500,000 shares to raise about £1.5m, to be followed by a subdivision of the total capital from 20p to 5p shares.

contribution to profits in Headlam's current financial year. However, given a rationalization of both companies overheads and competing product lines, it is expected that Carter will make a material contribution in the year to January 31, 1986.

Price of the shares of Carter is £11,000 cash. HS has agreed to fund the repayment of £274,000 of Carter's borrowings, as to one half now and the other on December 31 this year.

Mr Nicholas Carter, who has been with Carter Pocock for the past 14 years, has entered into a two-year service contract with HS.

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Have you heard how your company can lose money overnight?

Three o'clock one Sunday morning, the manager of a certain well-known company went to visit his empty factory. And even though he wasn't afraid of the dark, what he heard horrified him. The wind whistling through open windows, taps dripping, the whir of machines left switched on. Sounds that told him his company was wasting a lot of money, because it was wasting energy. It's something you should be seriously think-

ing about. Fuel prices have risen sharply over the last decade and energy costs are now a vital part of production costs. However, if you know how, energy is one of the easiest resources to control. Which is why a growing number of companies have taken the all-important step of appointing an energy manager. Many have made use of an Energy Efficiency Survey. Now under a new scheme consultants provide an analysis of how a company can make

better use of its energy and implement an energy-saving programme. The Energy Efficiency Office will refund a substantial part of the fee. Some have taken advantage of the Energy Conservation Demonstration Projects Scheme for all the latest information about energy-saving technologies and equipment. If you'd like to know more, fill in the coupon. Whatever your particular problem, we think you will find we are worth listening to.

To: The Energy Efficiency Office, P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ. Please send me more information on how I can make better use of energy.

Name _____

Job Title _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

No freeze on performance bond

Potton Homes Ltd v Coleman Contractors (Overseas) Ltd
Before Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice May
[Judgment delivered February 24]

In the absence of circumstances justifying the grant of an injunction on Mareva principles, to freeze the assets of a defendant, it was an error to make an order preventing a party from receiving the proceeds of a performance bond.

The Court of Appeal, in reserved judgments, allowed an appeal by the defendants, Coleman Contractors (Overseas) Ltd, against a decision of Judge Hawker, Q.C. sitting as an official referee, that £68,816, due to the defendants under a performance bond given by the plaintiffs, Potton Homes Ltd, should be paid into a joint account of the parties' solicitors, pending the trial of the action.

Mr Peter Cresswell, Q.C. and Mr Andrew Hillier for the defendants; Mr Nicholas Phillips, Q.C. and Mr Gerald Baring for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH said that the plaintiffs and defendants were English companies. On October 6, 1981 the plaintiffs agreed to supply the defendants with prefabricated building units to be shipped to Libya. That was followed by two similar agreements dated January 11, 1982 and May 18, 1982. The respective purchase prices were £31,000, £68,816, £29,741.

Provision was made for payment by instalments at various stages in the performance of the contracts. In respect of each contract the plaintiffs gave advance payment, a guarantee and a performance bond.

It was admitted that £89,621 was due under the three contracts. The plaintiffs also claimed just over £140,000 for extras and variations to the second contract and some other items. The defendants contended £33,000 of that but disputed the other items and said that the alleged extras were comprised within the contract.

The defendants alleged a number of defects in the houses delivered and made a demand upon the performance bond which was for £68,816. The plaintiffs then obtained an interim injunction restraining the defendants from calling upon that bond. They applied for summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Judge Hawker found that the plaintiffs were entitled to judgment for the sum of £89,621. He said that the defendants had raised a counterclaim which they were entitled to pursue.

He ordered a stay of execution in respect of the £89,621 on which he had given judgment. In relation to the performance bond the judge held that the plaintiffs had no power to restrain the defendants from making a call upon it.

On being considered evidence as to the defendants' financial position, he concluded that the case was not an appropriate one for an injunction based upon the Mareva principles. Then he said: "Nevertheless I think that in all the circumstances existing here, including the doubt of entitlement of the plaintiffs to over £89,000... it would not be right for the defendants at this stage to be free to do with it as they wish."

He then said that the position of both parties should be frozen until the issues in the action can be tried. He concluded that he had power to order a freeze under Order 29, rule 2(1). He regarded the defendants' claim against the bank as being in the nature of a chose in action and that the money should be paid into a joint account in the names of the solicitors for both parties.

The defendants contended that demand performance bonds were virtually promissory notes payable on demand and that similar principles applied to first demand performance bonds and letters of credit.

While it was true to say that the courts in many countries had shown great reluctance to interfere with the rights of a buyer under a demand performance bond, Lord Justice May did not think that the law could be seen to have developed upon mutually held underlying principles so as to give rise to a rule of international law in relation to set-off or attachment.

Unlike the letter of credit the bond was in its infancy although it was developing rapidly. There were several features of the bond which had not yet been universally established. One was the extent to which it was to be regarded as independent of the underlying contract.

While from the point of view of the bank the underlying contract was irrelevant and the bank's contract with the seller was independent of it, nonetheless as between buyer and seller the underlying contract might not be irrelevant.

Therefore, while the proposition as to set-off and attachment was in English law in relation to letters of credit, Lord Justice May did not accept that according to international law the same rule applied to performance bonds without authority for the proposition.

As between buyer and seller the underlying contract could not be disregarded so readily. If the seller had lawfully avoided the contract *prima facie* he should be entitled to restrain the buyer from making use of the performance bond. Moreover, in principle, it was not possible to say that in no circumstances whatever a fraud would the court restrain the buyer.

The facts of each case had to be considered. If the contract was avoided or if there was a failure of consideration between buyer and seller, it was sufficient to say he did not think that the court was restrained by authority to say that it had no jurisdiction to consider that matter under section 37 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

The plaintiffs had argued that if the judge was wrong in holding that he had power under Order 29, rule 2(1) to make the order which he did, then he could have made that or some other order in the exercise of his power under section 37 or by virtue of his inherent jurisdiction.

The court's power under section 37 was very wide. It applied to interlocutory and to final orders. The judge did not consider the exercise of his jurisdiction under section 37. Consequently the Court was free to do so.

It was not possible to say that there had been a complete failure of consideration for the issue of the bond.

The total purchase price under the three agreements was about £130,000. The court was concerned with a failure to pay some £89,000 which the defendants in effect contended that they had the right to withhold because larger sums were due to them from the plaintiffs.

Thus the court was asked to exercise its discretion to prevent a call upon the bond on the basis that the general state of accounts between the parties might show that overall the defendants would owe them money.

It could not be said that the plaintiffs had proved that there were no breaches of the original contract and that a demand would therefore be fraudulent. Their Lordships had therefore to proceed upon the basis that apart from the state of accounts between the parties the plaintiffs could raise no objection to a demand upon the bond.

One of the objects of giving the bonds was that the defendants should be entitled to obtain the money without first establishing the breaches upon which they relied. It was not shown that the plaintiffs made it right for the court to order what in effect would be a variation of the terms of the parties' agreement in relation to the bond.

There were therefore no grounds for saying that the defendants should not be entitled to obtain their money in accordance with the intention of the parties as expressed in their agreement.

LORD JUSTICE MAY, agreeing, said that the first point was whether the bond was a letter of credit. It was not in the present case, such as the one for £68,816 in the present case, in the same way as irrevocable letters of credit and thus effectively as cash in hand in the plaintiffs' opinion such bonds were to be so treated.

It might be that they had not been in use as a form of commercial paper for as long as letters of credit, but that they should be treated in the irrevocable nature of the obligation assumed by the relevant bank in such cases.

Accordingly, the judge was correct in saying as he did that as a matter of law the defendants were entitled to demand payment of the bond and that the bank was bound to pay.

Order 29, rule 2(1) on its proper construction was designed to enable the court to make such orders as it saw fit in relation to the subject matter of litigation *in specie* it could not be used to freeze cash in the hands of a party, even though the source of that cash could readily be identified and was perhaps directly connected with the other claims and counterclaims in the action.

In the instant case, if the circumstances were not such as to justify the grant of an injunction on Mareva principles, the judge erred in attempting to freeze the proceeds of the performance bond.

Solicitors: Sacker & Partners, Laytons.

Thames Guaranty Ltd v Campbell and Others
Before Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Slade
[Judgment delivered February 23]

Where a joint tenant, without the consent of the other tenant, deposited title deeds with a creditor by way of security for his debts such a deposit might not give rise to an equitable charge against the entirety or the beneficial interest of the deposit.

However, the doctrine of partial performance would apply, subject to exception for hardship, if the deposit was made with a promise to charge more than he had power to charge.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal by Thames Guaranty Ltd against an order of Mr Justice Mann dated May 12, 1983 (*The Times*, May 18) whereby Thames Guaranty were ordered to deliver up to the fourth defendant, Mrs Laura May Campbell, the land certificate for the property known as 10 Holmewood Gardens, Brixton, London, held in joint names of the first defendant, Mr Theophilus Count Campbell and Mrs Campbell. It was further ordered that the charges register of the title of the property be rectified by cancellation of the notice of deposit of the land certificate with Thames Guaranty.

Mr John Boggs for Thames Guaranty; Mr A. V. B. Bartlett for Mrs Campbell; the other defendants took no part in the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the real issue was whether Thames Guaranty were entitled to an equitable charge on the beneficial interest, if any, of Mr Campbell.

Under the statutory trust for sale affecting a property which was the matrimonial home of Mr and Mrs Campbell and the freehold title of it had since 1973 been registered in their joint names at the Land Registry.

Thames Guaranty formerly carried on business as bankers. Between August 1972 and March 1976 they granted four overdraft facilities to Mr Campbell. Those arrangements involved, *inter alia*, the deposit by Mr Campbell of the land certificate for the property with Thames Guaranty in June 1973.

That deposit was made without the consent of Mrs Campbell and she did not even become aware of it until some years later. Thames Guaranty, however, asserted that the arrangements had created a charge in equity on the beneficial interest, if any, of Mr Campbell in the property.

On April 30, 1974, Thames Guaranty registered a notice of deposit of land certificate at the Land Registry. They also obtained security for Mr Campbell's borrowing from two guarantors. On March 22, 1976, Thames Guaranty went into liquidation and a liquidator was appointed.

In support of Thames Guaranty's appeal, the argument of Mr Boggs was that the bank could grant a certain interest in that property, and it later appeared that there was a deficiency in its title or interest, the other party could obtain an order compelling him to grant what he had got, and in an appropriate case, to submit to a reduction of the consideration for the grant ("the doctrine of partial performance").

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Mild-mannered inspiration who stands as epitome of the French way of sport

Scots put emphasis on finesse

Robson echoes Robson

Robson accepted that his own standards this season has fallen short of standards he has set over recent years. Yet he remains one of the few individuals that Bobby Robson would not dare to omit. "Even so, I think the manager might want to pick, say, Gary Wilkins and Williams to see if they combine together."

Robson has been linked in the past few days with Sampdoria, but he has no intention of reaching Italian shores. "He himself wishes that the speculation would be ended. 'If a club made any offer to United, then I would be prepared to talk to them. It is out of my hands.'"

Robson has talked to Ron Atkinson about the situation but he is trying to get it out of his mind.

Butragueno laid on Real's opening goal against Barcelona for Ianio, a frequent scorer at the moment, after 16 minutes. Maradona - though subsequently injured - equalized 10 minutes after half-time. It was Santillana who had the last word. Substituting for Butragueno after 64 minutes, he scored the winner a quarter of an hour

gained more experience. Laudrup's father, the former Danish international, Finn, went with his son's manager, Claus Lundekvam. Laudrup says he had no intention of leaving second division football this season; but Lazio may now be able to escape relegation.

Roma went two down to Lazio, with goals going to their long-haired striker, D'Alessandro, and a defender from the spot, but Manfredini's move has lately been playing so well that his move from defence to attack was sent off for a dreadful fall just after half-time, and Roma were back.

The book's little consolation for Roma in the form of their European opponents, Dynamo Berlin. Under Tricoff, their international

The mercurial Platini, who with 17 goals from 21 games, leading Calcio scorer for Juventus together with Zico, and Little Giresse will be there tomorrow with Tigana, hoping to reverse the World Cup result in Bilbao which flattered Ron Greenwood's prospects two years ago.

Michel Hidalgo, the able manager of the French international team which plays England tomorrow in Paris, has made a fervent, humane plea for the release of Roger Rocher. The former president of Saint-Denis is still held in Lyons on charges of serious financial irregularities, on charges that financial

[illegible]

quality of the game, but few avoid drifting into contemporary tactical expediency. Hidalgo refuses. When France led 3-1 in extra time against West Germany, they still, like Brazil when they were 2-2 against Italy, continued to attack. He sees his role as far more than

The Bundesliga is as close-run as ever, with Bayern, Stuttgart and Hamburg level at the top. Dieter Hoeneß, brother of the Bayern general manager, Uli, returned

[illegible]

which had, and had to have the beauty and virtue and justice of sport. I am against all injustice, even in arranging the draw for tournaments. Chance is beautiful. If the public becomes bored, it will go elsewhere."

Moran's chance to fill gap

Albion may

elfwood's luck
Telford United, who beat three other League sides in this season's FA Cup, have home advantage in the quarter-finals of their defence of the FA trophy, after they meet Marine on March 11.

Blow for Thaler

The Kent Invicta scrum half Peter Thaler, who broke an arm in the Rugby League second division game against Batley, will be out for the rest of the season.

Fibak wants into the I

Crapper was put clean away by his centre, Tilley, to score the first goal of the period while Durham were under strength.

BRITISH LEAGUE: premier division: Cleveland 1, Murreyfield 7 (Sobkowicz 3); Nottingham 2, Dundee 14 (Halpin 3, R Wood 3); Dundee 8, 3, Murreyfield 2, Ayr 1, Sineatham 4, Stellan 3, Durham 7 (Crapper 3); Whitby Bay 3 (Kent 3); Cleveland 3.

Hogan live B Joseph	9
G Buehl	3
Ashes (B126) 1-22, w/- n-55)	28
Total 15 wets dec 1	276
B Border 15 D Wickett, G F Lawson and R	
Hogg did not bat.	
Wicketts 1-141, 2-147, 3-242, 4-	
SWLING, Joseph 14-4-47; Lyett 31-3-47;	
MWING, Joseph 24-5-47; Harper 24-5-47; Kitchener	
and Jockman 1-0-2-0.	
YANNA, P. Jockman 417 for 8 dec A F D	
Linnam 125, Tym Linnam 66, R M Hogg 3	
114)	
Second Innings	
R M Hogg 114	0
Linnam C Smith & Linnam	0
Q Jockman not out	14
C Buehl and Jockman not out	1
Totals (n=1)	1
Total 63 wickets 1	24
Swearing, D I Kitchener, R A Harper, TM R	
C Buehl, G F Joseph, G E Charles	
Wicketts 1-141, 2-147, 3-242, 4-	
D OF WICKETS, F	

Having lost to one of the teams in contention for a place in the National Championship play-offs at Wembley last month, Doncaster were then beaten on Sunday by

RIF

s to get back Polish fold

second time after he defeated Paul
Tackett of Australia in the semi-final

Christ Church III (-3), St Edmund Hall III (+3),
Magdalen III (-1), Balliol III (-4), Trinity IV (+2),
Trinity III (+1), Exeter IV (-4), Oriel VII (+2),
Lincoln III (-1), Merton II (-6), Lady Margaret
Hall III (-3).

WOMEN
Division I: Oser House (-2), St Catherine's
(-2), Lady Margaret Hall (-2), St Hilda's (+1),
St Hugh's (+4), Jesus (-5), Worcester (-1).

FOR THE RECORD
Division II: Anna's bed Wadsworth.
Division 20: Balliol bed Exeter; Lincoln bed
Exeter; Trinity bed Wolfson; St Hilda's bed
Hartford; Corpus Christi bed Hartford; New
College bed Hartford.
Division 21: Hertford; Brasenose 1, bed La
Mar; St Edmund Hall bed Magdalen;
Magdalen; Mansfield bed Magdalen.
Catherine's II bed Magdalen.

[illegible][illegible]

Promoters may have legal set-to before Christie bout

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Frank Warren brings on his crowd-pullers, Roy Gumbs, Errol Christie and Noel Quaresima, all against foreign "good class" opponents at the Bloomsbury Hotel, London, on March 21. But before the show goes on there could be a right legal set-to over Christie's and Quaresima's contests.

The man Christie is boxing, Rico Hoyer, has been booked by Mike Barrett to meet Mark Kaylor at Wembley a week earlier. "I've got him signed up," Warren claimed, but from his Soho office, Barrett made the angry reply: "Contrary to any statement which may be put out by another promoter, I confirm that Mark Kaylor will box Rico Hoyer, of Detroit, as announced, at Wembley on March 13. Any contact with Hoyer's manager will confirm this."

The Kaylor-Christie rivalry will not end with who boxes Hoyer. Kaylor may have to defend his British and Commonwealth titles against the exciting young Coventry middleweight. Warren has increased his offer to Kaylor from £20,000 to £30,000.

Barrett also stands in the way of Quaresima getting into the ring. Naïf Quaresima's manager, who has signed the heavyweight up to appear on a Barrett show, Quaresima has no intention of boxing for Barrett and says he has sacked Barrett. The British Boxing Board of Control met on March 14 to decide whether Quaresima's dismissal of his manager stands.

Colin Jones and his manager, Eddie Thomas, were rubbing their hands in anticipation as they left London yesterday for New York, where the world's No.2 welterweight is to receive an award for his second title bout with Milton McCrory, voted the "Fight of the Year". The only other British boxer to receive a similar award was Ken Buchanan, of Scotland, who was also managed by Thomas.

While in New York Thomas hopes to sign up Jones to meet Sugar Ray Leonard for a fee that could take the earnings of the former gravedigger from Gorseinon into over £2m (£1.36m). The last time Thomas had talks with Leonard's solicitor, Mike Trainer, the Welshman asked

Henderson confirms See You Then as a Triumph runner

By Michael Seely

See You Then, the new favourite for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham, will arrive in England on Thursday and go straight to Lambourn where he will be trained by the four-year-old champion jockey, Nicky Henderson. "The Styx Wood Stud, the new owners wanted to send him to Italy straight away, but he will run at Cheltenham first," Henderson said.

See You Then's easy defeat of Kalaminsky in the back, Peter John Doyle Hurdle at Punchdown on Saturday was by far the most impressive performance put up by a horse of his age group this season. Henderson has been quick to realise the significance of this victory. "It was the top price on offer after William Hill reported laying See You Then to lose £40,000 in their credit offices yesterday."

Henderson is now in the happy position of training both the first and second favourites for the Triumph. Childwin, his other horse, has only been given a fourth place in succession in the Victor Ludorum Hurdle at Haydock on Saturday. This is the middle leg of the four-year-old's triple crown and Broad Beam and Clinton Bridge are also under orders for the Lancashire race.

The trainer continued: "My main worry now is jockeys as Hywel Davies has been grounded for three weeks. He will not be available for Cheltenham. John Francome will have the choice of mounts, so we will have to wait and see what happens on Saturday when Jimmy Carrigan rode See You Then to victory in Ireland last weekend when the horse was trained by Con Collins."

Davies, who nearly died in the ambulance after his fall from Solid Rock at Doncaster on Saturday, returned to the racecourse yesterday to be taken back to his home near Swindon by his wife, Rachael. "I don't think he will be fit to ride at Cheltenham," Henderson said.

However, Dr Michael Allen, the Chief Medical Officer to the Jockey Club, confirmed that Davies would not be allowed back in action for three weeks.

Other big race news came from Michael Dickinson and Jimmy Fitzgerald. The champion trainer will be at Doncaster to see Planctum earn himself a run in the Sun Alliance Chase with a hard

Barrier Reef to redeem himself

By Michael Seely

Barrier Reef is taken to prove himself a high-class young horse in the making by winning this afternoon's Hamilton Memorial Chase at Kelso. After watching the seven-year-old beat Kudos and Galway Blaze decisively at Wetherby in January, Thomas Tate, his trainer, said: "Barrier Reef has the potential to be in the same class as Silver Buck and Bregawn. And I should know as I won races on both of them." Robert Earnshaw rode Barrier Reef on that occasion but Tate will be back in the saddle today.

Since his Yorkshire victory Barrier Reef has finished unplaced behind Haydale at Huntingdon. However, his owner, trainer is inclined to excuse that poor performance. "Barrier Reef had got very upset because of the snow and rain," said Tate, who is managing the horse's career. "He tried a mile from home and blew for an hour after the race."

Earl's Brig, Peaty Sandy and Sam Wrekin will all make formidable contenders for the £5,000 Scottish prize. Earl's Brig is cast in the same mould as Macmofat. The Callant and Wyndburgh, other outstanding hunter chasers trained north of the border, will also be in the race.

Earl's Brig finished second to Elongity in the Christmas Foxhunters Challenge Chase at Cheltenham last year and after his finest victory over User at Catterick earlier this month he is ready to not only review his Cheltenham challenge but also to make a bold effort today.

Hill's Guard and Steve King are other big names in the race. Hill's Guard would have finished second to Ra Nova instead of third in the Scottish Gold Trophy but for hanging badly to the right on the run.

At Plumpton all eyes will be on John Francome as he attempts to ride the 1,000th winner of his outstanding career on Dancing Sovereign to the E. Coomes Handicap. The Danbury Maiden Stakes will also be a highlight, as a defied top weight in a similar race in fine style at Lingfield Park and was certainly not disgraced when finishing fifth to Mayotte in the Fernbach Hurdle at Ascot. Dancing Sovereign is expected to fear from Canto and Navajo Brave.

Good start to term for Housemistress

Point-to-point, by Ian Reid

Housemistress made a welcome return last Saturday at the North Herefordshire, where, despite a mistake three out, she and Rosemary Harper smoothly regained the lead from Master Straight and Rosemary Vicky to take the Ladies' Open, a qualifier for the RMC Championship. Leg had duly collected the Ladies' Open.

The Cambridge University meeting at Cottenham, again on perfect going, produced big fields, close finishes and fast times. There were 12 ladies in the Ladies' Open, and Lucy Gibbon, who also had two good seconds and a third. Greenall's winners were Cheekie Ora, who beat Jack of All Trades and the rebe-seeking Glenavien in the third round, and Lucy Gibbon in the Past and Present race. His Irish import, Robson, second to Clinch It in the Members', and Sparrow Missile's half brother, Royal Missile, who bustled Drakes Pinnacle in the first open, should be winning for his soon.

Some spectators thought Reliable Robson had beaten Angers Green in the Ladies' Open, but Lucy Gibbon mounted got the verdict by half a length, with Clare Mair on Clonmounon only a neck away third and Highgate Lady fourth.

At the Army meeting at Tweseldown, Ray Roden, Lochage and Britany won the three men's open qualifiers for the Diners' Club final at Cheltenham on May 28. Luigi Cavenza was kicked in the head when a broken leather caused him to fall only a few yards from the start on Solidity, who would have finished second to Lochage. Cavenza was taken to hospital, but was later allowed to return to the race.

In the third division Britany seemed to have it all to do when he emerged from the cutting about 10 lengths behind Forbidden Fruit. But Paul Webber had timed his efforts to perfection and took one and a half lengths to spare at the finish. Forbidden Fruit was beaten half a

length for second place by three grey former chaser, Silent Burn.

Simon Sherwood was content to let Lakin lounge around at the rear of the field for much of the way in the Land Rover Hunters' Chase, while Ballet Master and Yougal cut out

the pace. Making up the ground between the last two and comfortably held off Yougal and Asuro.

In the Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase the fast-finishing Fay Freeze faced a head to head with Nickie Mopett.

Robin Weavings' course winner, Rugs, ridden by Caroline Saunders, outstayed the opposition in the two and a half mile Melton Hunt Club Chase. Mr Mole ran on into second place.

Prayukta throws it away

Fred Winner's former chaser, Prayukta, starting at 9-4 on, was clear when he fell three out in the two-mile Thrusters Hunters' Chase at Leicester yesterday (Jan Reid writes). This left Stobhan's Joy in a lead which was maintained to the finish, holding off the fast finishing Countenance and Saldatore.

Elmby, taken the shortest way round by Alan Hill in the first division of the Hawthorne Maiden Hunters' Chase, was easily 30 lengths after Three Chances, ridden by Joy Carrier, had fallen on the first circuit. Dicky Blob, ridden by Steve Long, galloped on strongly to win the second division of the

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TENNIS: BLEAK OUTLOOK FOR BRITAIN

Looking for a scapegoat in Dowdeswell

Many people will blame Britain's defeat, 3-2 by Italy in the Davis Cup, perhaps a little unfairly, on the form of Colin Dowdeswell (AFP reports). Although he was the successful alongside John Lloyd in the doubles at Telford on Saturday, Dowdeswell lost both of his singles and although Lloyd won his opening singles on Friday, he too, was beaten on Sunday.

The British future looks increasingly bleak - especially since the Italian team of Gianni Occhipinti and Corrado Barazzutti is a far cry from the days when the Italians were led by Adriano Panatta and company.

Italy and Paraguay move into the quarter-finals. Italy face Australia, the holders, who did not drop a set after the opening day of their tie against Yugoslavia in Perth which they won 5-0. Paraguay play Sweden, who quickly recovered after losing the opening singles against Ecuador in Norrkoping.

Argentina will play the United States, and France will play Czechoslovakia.

Argentina had a harder than expected match against West Germany in Stuttgart, with Guillermo Vilas and Jose Luis Clerc having to work hard for their 4-1 win.

In Bucharest, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors overwhelmed Romania, led by Ilie Nastase, 5-0. The United States dropped only one set in the (surprisingly) McEnroe led the opening set of his final-day singles.

France beat India 4-1. India were unlucky losing Vijay Amritraj

Bates put to an early test

By Lewine Mair

In the first round of the Masters, the final event of the Lawn Tennis Association's five-week satellite circuit, Jeremy Bates will play Brian Levine, the South African he had replaced as the tour's top seed.

When Levine came over at the end of January he was appalled to find that his world ranking of 222 was good enough to have him seeded first in each of the two opening events. He had never been in the No.1 seed in anything before and he freely admits that the honour affected him adversely.

By last week, in the Coventry instalment of the satellite, Levine was beginning to play a more relaxed game. However, one doubts whether he is quite sharp enough to trouble Bates in their match at Bramhall tomorrow. Bates, of course, missed the Coventry event because of his Davis Cup commitment, but that short break from a circuit in which he has so far won two of the three events he has entered will probably have done him good rather than the reverse.

With Stuart Bates' opening game against Wayne Hamson of Australia also scheduled for tomorrow, the only match with British interest today is that between Richard Lewis, the runner-up at Coventry, and Ronnie Bahnam, of Sweden.

MAIR: Bates' singles, first round: V. Van Patten (USA) vs J. Carsten (SWE) 7-6, 6-1, 6-4.



Dowdeswell: disappointing

through injury before the tie began, and had to bring in Anand Amritraj, his older brother, who is not ranked in the world's top 700, to take his place. And Ramesh Krishnan, former world junior champion, came on court on Friday after spending three days in bed with influenza.

Czechoslovakia did not need Ivan Lendl, their No.1, to dispose of Denmark 5-0.

VOLLEYBALL

Champions seeking sponsorship

By Paul Harrison

Capital City Spikers confirmed their new status as the leading team in England in their dress rehearsal on Sunday for the Mifflin Cup final, beating Speedwell Rucator, from Bristol, 3-1. Not only have Spikers taken Speedwell's league title, they are now firm favourites to take the double tag from the west country side.

Spikers have lost only once this season in the league, while Speedwell have declined sadly to mid-table mediocrity. Sunday's match at Finsbury demonstrated the current gap between the two sides: Spikers won 15-3, 15-7, 15-10.

Polonia have finished runners-up, and Spark, who have suffered from inconsistency this season, were third again. Spark had a particularly enjoyable weekend, they beat Speedwell 3-2, to become the only side to do the double over the Bristolians in recent seasons.

Champions they may be, but Spikers are still searching for sponsorship to enable them to enter European competition next season. They need about £3,000, and there is no sign of that coming along. Amateur sport is expensive; it costs the club £132 to hire the sports hall for their weekend matches. It is met by the players dipping into their own pockets, as usual. "It's all money, money," Mike Warren, the Spikers secretary, says.

Spikers are planning to warm up for the cup final by playing the two leading Scottish sides, MIM and Volvo Trucks, in Scotland on the weekend of April 7-8. MIM, favourites to retain their league and cup titles, are going to Kuwait for a four-day playing visit from April 20.

Both MIM and Volvo had easy 3-0 victories in the Royal Bank league at the weekend, against Airdrie and Bellshill Cardinals respectively, and the league title should come down to their meeting on March 24, at Telford College, Edinburgh. They should meet in the cup final, too.

GYMNASTICS

Still appointed women's coach

By Peter Ayskroyd

The British Amateur Gymnastics Association have appointed Colin Still the full-time national coach for women's gymnastics - it is three years since they have had a full-time coach.

Still, aged 30, will be based at Lilliput national sports centre. His primary responsibility will be selecting and preparing all national squads. For the last six years, he has been a British team coach, and chief coach of Loughborough Gymnastics

GOLF

Lack of women entrants is IBM's only problem

By Mitchell Platts

A surprising lack of recruitments to the "Women's Professional Golfers' Association" will appear to be one of the obstacles for the organisation to overcome following the announcement in London yesterday of the inaugural Ladies' European Open, sponsored by IBM, to be played at the Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, on August 29 to September 1.

The European Open, with prize-money of £25,000, comes hard on the heels of the news that the Irish Open, sponsored by Smirnoff, is to carry a £100,000 prize fund and it takes the prize-money available to W.P.G.A. members in 1984 to a record of £478,500. The Irish Open, to be staged at Clontarf, near Bangor, from October 10 to 13, will involve 45 leading players from the United States women's circuit and will follow immediately after the £140,000 British Ladies Open at Woburn on October 3 to 6.

The European Open, which has a first prize of £5,000, is the highest prize fund negotiated by the W.P.G.A. The British and Irish Opens are part of the U.S. L.P.G.A.'s World Tour which is worth more than \$8m and takes in 39 tournaments.

Yet it is significant that Colin Snape, the executive director of the W.P.G.A., insists there is some anxiety regarding the number of British players prepared to switch from the amateur to the professional ranks in spite of the growth of the circuit.

"We now have 57 members, of which only 25 British or Irish, and of the 25 or so inquiries for membership this year only three or four of them are home based," Snape said. "I would personally have hoped that, in spite of it being a Curtis Cup year, far more of our own girls would have been prepared to take the plunge especially as significant progress is being made as the IBM sponsorship underlines."

Livingston travels

Richard Livingston, of King's Norton, Birmingham, is the new professional at South Herts Golf Club, in succession to the late Dai Rees. Livingston was dismissed by King's Norton after refusing to accept a reduction in wages, but reinstated when the committee were forced to hold a members' ballot.

SNOW REPORTS

Worn patches on lower slopes			
Val d'Isère	130	250	Good
Excellent off-piste skiing			
Villars	115	215	Good
Deep powder skiing on all slopes			
Wengen	35	145	Good
Powder on hard base			
In the above reports, supplied by reporters in the British Isles, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. Information has been received from a tourist board:			

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following report has been received from a tourist board:

Avoriaz	-	110	Good	-	-8
Grans-Montana	-	80	Good	-	-7
Grans-Montana	-	100	Good	-	-8
SWITZERLAND					
	Depth (cm)		State of Piste	Weather	°C
Avoriaz	70 150		Powd	-	-7
Grans-Montana	160 210		Powd	-	-7
Grans-Montana	100 180		Powd	-	-3
Grans-Montana	120 220		Powd	-	-4
Grans-Montana	80 180		Powd	-	-4
Grans-Montana	50 160		Powd	-	-4

WALLANDS NOVICES' HURDLE (Div 1: 4-y-o: £548; 2m) (11 runners)

GOING: soft.	2.0 WALLANDS NOVICES' HURDLE (Div 1: 4-y-o: £548; 2m) (11 runners)
1	1210 RECORD DANCER (C) (Miss H Gervais) G Pritchard-Gordon 11-8
2	OPPO BULL SPEAKER (C) (Harvey J Long 10-10
3	0000 COMBEE SPIRIT (R) (Benny J Baker 10-10
4	0000 GOLDEN ROSE (C) (Miss H Gervais) G Pritchard-Gordon 11-8
5	0000 GENERAL COMMISSION (T) (Harvey J Long 10-10
6	3230 GREAT PRETENDER (C) (Maurice T Hallett 10-10
7	0000 LIGHT TRAVELLER (A) (Darius M Mason 10-10
8	0000 TRAVELLER (P) (Walter M Mason 10-10
9	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
10	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
11	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
12	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
13	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
14	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
15	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
16	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
17	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
18	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
19	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5
20	0000 SHIRAZ (C) (P. Williams) M Madwick 10-5

10-11 Record Dancer, 7-2 General Commissions, 5 Great Pretender, 5 Wharfedale, 10 Acadia, 14 others.

WALLY COMBEE HANDICAP CHASE (£1,604; 3m 19 (7)

GOING: soft.	2.30 WALLY COMBEE HANDICAP CHASE (£1,604; 3m 19 (7)
1	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
2	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
3	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
4	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
5	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
6	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
7	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
8	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
9	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
10	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
11	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
12	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
13	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
14	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
15	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
16	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
17	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
18	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
19	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13
20	2123-PP FLAGSTAFF (C) (Mrs G Lloyd) T Foster 12-11-13

13-8 Saunders, 5-2 Round The Twist, 4 Cantor Grand, 5-2 De Puyval, 9 Flagstaff, 12 others.

4.0 E. COOMES HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,233; 2m 4f) (16)

GOING: soft.	4.0 E. COOMES HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,233; 2m 4f) (16)
1	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
2	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
3	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
4	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
5	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
6	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
7	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
8	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
9	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
10	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
11	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
12	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
13	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
14	213000 ROAD TO HANDBALL (C) (Dorothy L D Barnes 7-11-7
15	

RUGBY UNION: JOHN PLAYER CUP QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

Holmes can remove lingering doubts

Wasps are confronted by another difficult hurdle

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The successful return of Terry Holmes, the Wales and British Lions scrum-half, to first-class rugby in Cardiff's Welsh Cup quarter-final win over Newbridge last Saturday inevitably begs the question whether his return to the national side is imminent. The next Welsh squad training is not until March 8, when the team to play England at Twickenham will also be announced.

Before that date, Holmes will have the opportunity to play another game for Cardiff, against Ebbw Vale this Saturday, and on March 10 his club must Poty-pool, which might be considered as good a test as any, of whether a player is fit enough to play international rugby.

It was suggested at the weekend that both Welsh Cup semi-finals, Cardiff v Llanelli, and Aberystwyth v Neath, should be played on the same afternoon at the National Stadium. The decision lies with the WRU competitions committee, but it seems unlikely to happen, if only for logistic reasons. The suggestion has been raised before and rejected.

Dusty Hare, the England and Leicester full back, needs seven points from the international with France on Saturday, to pass 5,000 first-class career points. He scored only five for Leicester against Rosslyn Park last Saturday, missing four conversions in his club's 25-16 win.

CLUB MATCHES: Ebbw Vale v Cardiff (7.30, Parkin); Neath v Swansea (7.30, Rodney; Llanelli v Llanelli (7.30, Rodney).

If Wasps win this season's John Player Cup, they will have done so the hard way. After surviving drawn games at Gosforth and Orrell, they must now go to Bath, after yesterday's quarter-final draw, which took all three remaining London clubs away from home.

Harlequins must travel to those most experienced of cup campaigners, Coventry, London Scottish face an awkward tie against Nottingham at Beeston; and the holders, Bristol, after the rare luxury of a home game and a six-try drubbing of London Welsh, resume their cup odyssey by playing Waterloo at Blundellsands.

Had neither been involved in the cup, Bath and Wasps would have played last Saturday; their meeting is postponed only a fortnight, until March 10, and brings together two teams capable, at their best, of playing inventive rugby, but neither of whom have any great record in the cup. It is to be hoped the occasion will not prove too inhibiting.

In that respect John Lawrence, secretary to London Scottish, raised the valid point at yesterday's draw, that the eight fourth round ties had been rich in tries. There were 34 all told, an average of 4.25 a game, which suggests that all is not so

sterile as international rugby might suggest. Ron Jacobs, president of the RFU also welcomed the significant part played by tries in drawn cup games this season: "It's a handling game and rather than deploring the rules - because we don't play for drawn games - I think it does add emphasis to the game," Mr Jacobs said.

THE DRAW

Coventry v Harlequins
Bath v Wasps
Nottingham v London Scottish
Waterloo v Bristol

As luck would have it, Nottingham and London Scottish are due to meet a week after their cup game, as are Coventry and Harlequins, who have an evening game the following Friday. Waterloo, however, do not enjoy regular fixtures with Bristol, and the atmosphere for that game will resemble one of the many county championship finals which have been played at Blundellsands.

Gauntlett, the young Bristol centre who sustained crushed vertebrae at the top of his spine during Saturday's game, will remain in traction at Southmead Hospital for another 10 days.

It seems unlikely, that Water-

loo will have Syddall, the England lock, restored to their ranks. He is to have an exploratory operation on the lateral ligaments in his knee, though his club replacement, Reed, had been filling the gap well.

Three members of the successful Nottingham side are in the British Polytechnics team which plays Public Schools Wanderers at East London tomorrow. Hodgkinson, the leading points scorer in England, is at full back, Hartley in the centre and Murphy at scrum half.

The Polytechnics will also have Cramb, the Harlequins stand-off half, in their ranks. Kingston, Cramb's place of study, are in the final of the Polytechnics Cup, sponsored by Rugby World, in which they will meet Bristol, at the London Irish ground on March 14. In the semi-finals of the competition, Kingston beat Newcastle 9-6 and Bristol, winners in 1979 and finalists the following three years, beat Trent 17-7.

BRITISH POLYTECHNICS: S Hodgkinson (Trent), S Campbell (Hemel), G Hartley (Trent), M Wilson (North Staffs), A Walton (Leeds), R Cramb (Kingston), Murphy (Trent), G Evans (Middlesex), M Willis (Leeds), T Growcott (Wolverhampton), C Powell (Wolverhampton), K Edwards (Leeds), J Williams (Green), R Whitley (Kingston), S Russell (South Bank).

CRICKET: NEW ZEALAND TRIUMPH WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

Turning point that cornered Willis

From Derek Hodgson, Auckland

One grey, chilly Sunday afternoon in Christchurch was the fulcrum of England's tour of New Zealand. Had England avoided the follow-on that day, as they should and could have done, then the second Test match might have been saved, if not won, and a tour that will be written off as mostly failure would have been hailed a success.

England went on to lose the three-match Test series 1-0 and their compensation - marginally - by winning the one-day series 2-1. Nothing will stick in English memory so much as that day in Christchurch when England, 55 for seven over night in reply to New Zealand's 307, were bowled out for 82 and 92.

In a situation in which a Boycott or an Edrich would have been hugely, sitting on the spine all day and defying the world, England could not find one batsman able to build an innings, although honourable mention might be made of Gillingham's 19 not out in the first innings and Randall's 25, amid the debris of the tail, in the second. What dear old Kenney Barrington would have said about it all is unthinkable in polite company.

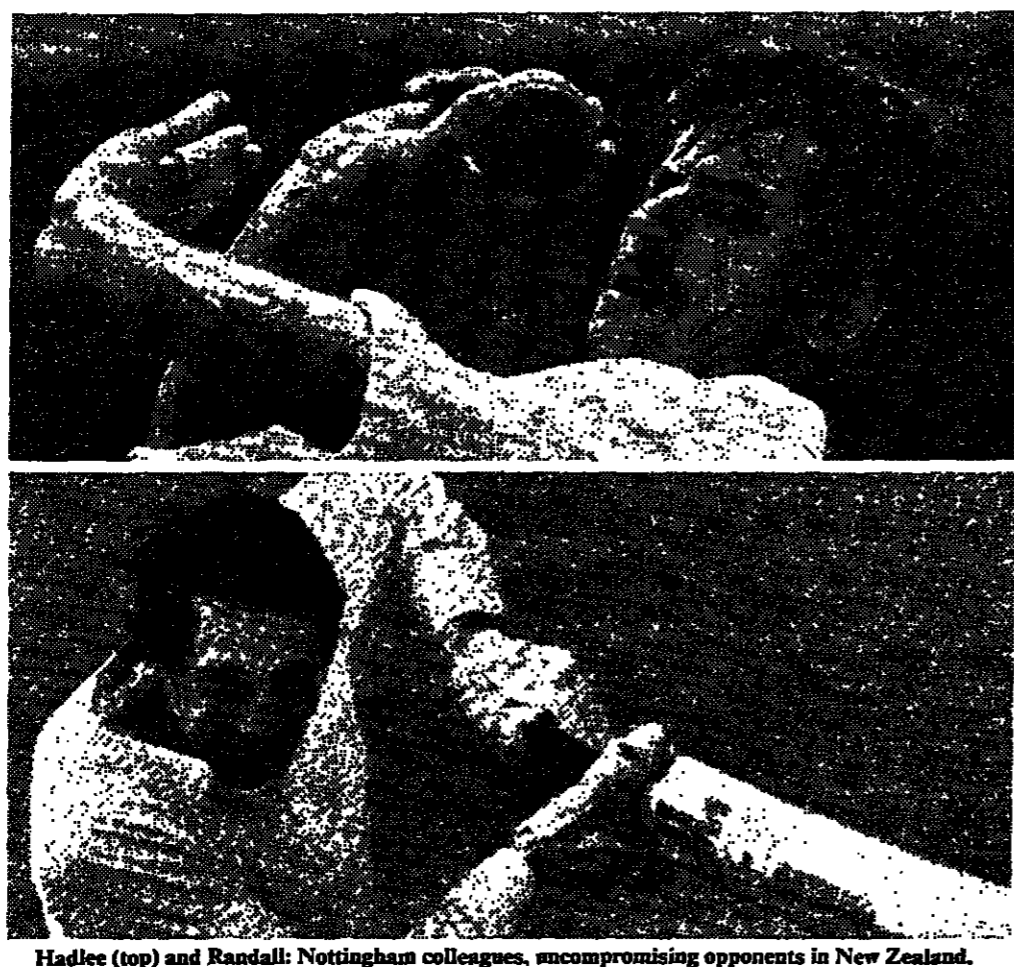
Once a Test match behind, England had no hope of recovery at Auckland, a foredoomed draw. They might have won in Wellington and, indeed, were in a winning position, but were foiled by a pitch that actually improved day by day and by some courageous and forthright batting by Martin Crowe and Conway.

In the one-day matches England looked much the smarter side in the first two, when they were the more tactically aware and superior in bowling and fielding. All went horribly wrong in the final match at Eden Park last Saturday when, curiously, Willis won the toss for the first time in six spins with Howarth.

Before being too condemnatory of England, their opponents are entitled to a few words of praise. Howarth is an astute captain who has benefited enormously, as have Wright and Hadlee, from his finishing education in England county cricket. New Zealand's three principal players know their English opponents far better than they do some of the competitors they meet in domestic competitions.

Howarth has no more than 14 international class players to choose from in New Zealand and uses his limited resources wisely and well against opponents who, on tour, can rarely deploy any greater strength against him. Howarth is a Robin Hood in Sherwood Forest, with his merry men about him, he is all but invincible. But outside Nottingham gates, against a mailed norman knight?

This particular Robin Hood is leading Surrey next summer and an interesting season it could be at the Oval, with all kinds of opportunities for coaching success. He is a Sherif Gillingham and his acolytes at Lord's. More seriously, what England will have to consider in the future is a full three-month tour of New Zealand, playing five Test matches. Such is the public interest that Napier and Dunedin could



Hadlee (top) and Randall: Nottingham colleagues, uncompromising opponents in New Zealand.

probably sustain Test matches as well-supported as those in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, while New Zealand has gone plainly dry over one-day cricket. The total receipts for the tour will be more than NZ\$1m (£454,000).

As to why England failed this time is a question that can be

had successful tours. Randall being the hero more than once and emerging as England's premier batsman. Taylor is the nonpareil and Willis, by husbanding his strength and stamina, is a wonderful example to all fast bowlers everywhere.

As a captain he has the admirable

Test party grounded in Sydney

England's cricketers, already on a tight schedule for Friday's First Test in Karachi against Pakistan, had to make an overnight emergency stop in Australia yesterday. After leaving Auckland they were half-way over the Tasman Sea when one of the starboard engines on their British Airways Boeing 747 developed trouble.

The plane was diverted to Sydney where for three hours engineers attempted to repair the fault. Within minutes of taking off again, the engine once more began to play up and the plane relanded at Sydney at 9pm with no chance of the fault being repaired before Sydney's 10pm curfew on international flights.

answered in at least two ways. Had Foster been fit to bowl on the Christchurch pitch England might have won the second Test match; had Taylor found his normal form there would have been some cement about England's order.

The players whose career prospects have notably improved have been Smith, Marks and Foster. Smith has applied himself rigorously. Marks, once reassured of his place, grew in stature almost visibly. Foster is a natural bowler and competitor. Such is the public interest that Napier and Dunedin could

Randall, Taylor and Willis also

quality of seemingly growing stronger from defeat and the question posed before the start of the tour, who to replace him, is no longer the answer.

Gower has always looked good without scoring many runs and has suffered more than most for being Hadlee's prime target and from umpiring decisions, a statement that must be qualified by saying that overall the umpiring was first class.

Lamb remains a puzzle. He has the strokes and the ambition. He likes making runs and yet one always feels he has finished at least

30 runs short of what he should have scored. Botham had one of his old gala days in the first Test match and has bowled well in the one-day games. He has looked fit and sharp throughout, but the suspicion of wear and tear, of the need of a rest from cricket, remains.

The other six members of the party of 15 have a month in Pakistan to recover from a poor time in New Zealand. Conway is advancing, but slowly, and the captain never knows quite what to expect. Dillie picked up another strain and was then almost completely shut out by Conway. Fowler is a batsman who needs and likes plenty of work which, once he had been left out of the Test side, simply was not available in this itinerary.

Tavart, too, did not get enough match practice. Gillingham has been much criticized for his hitting across the line, but far too often he has come in late with no alternative but to swing almost every ball.

That leaves Cook, who began the tour leaving in his usual free-flowing attacking style, reverted to what might be called his Sunday afternoon line and was then forgotten after the first Test match in Wellington. It was a sad and serious misuse of a talented left-arm spinner. It is to be hoped that Cook, more than any other, may get the chance to recover himself in Karachi and Lahore.

● An undefeated 141 by Amel Rajah and 66 not out from Pramegh Moosa, carried Trinidad and Tobago to a draw against Leeward Islands at St John's, Antigua in the final match of the Shell Shield, although they remained in last place in the table.

● St John's, Trinidad and Tobago 337 and 289 for 3 (A Rajah 141 not out, P Moosa 66 not out).

Team	P	W	D	L	NR	Pts
Barbados	5	2	2	1	0	48
Guyana	5	1	2	2	0	41
Jamaica	5	1	2	2	0	36
Leeward Is	5	1	1	3	1	36
Trinidad	5	0	2	3	0	32
Tobago	5	0	2	3	0	17

● Kent have arranged two 50-over matches against Essex, at Canterbury on April 18 and at Chelmsford the following day.

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ATHLETICS



Melbourne (Reuter) - Steve Overt (Above) said here yesterday that the Australian 800 and 1,500 metres champion, Mike Hillard, would prove a tough opponent in the next few weeks.

Overt, the Olympic 800 metres champion, will prepare for the Los Angeles Games with races in Melbourne on March 6, Sydney on March 11 and Adelaide on March 14.

Overt said: "Hillard is the fastest in the world this year with his 1,500 metres. He will be a tough opponent."

"I can prepare a lot better here than at home where it's so cold I have to wear two or three tracksuits."

For the saboteur who has already given up fish fingers...

A glorious new campaign to safeguard the fate of the bait

FISHING



wood and elaborated on the terrible suffering of cod, all squeezed together in a net, rammed alive on to the deck of a trawler and immediately seized and gutted. Was that not more cruel than angling? Yes, he said, it was, and as soon as he had heard how cruel commercial fishermen were, he had given up eating fish fingers.

This is the stuff of which martyrs are made, the true glory of sacrifice. For if a man can lose his life based largely on the sofa bean he is certainly not going to be diverted from his faith by scientists.

There are other causes to which a man can turn his hand, for there is nothing so rewarding in his religion than drawing attention to the evils of his fellows. What better and more appropriate in present circum-

stances than following up the campaign started, for example, by John Gay?

"Around the steel no tortur'd worm shall twine
No blood of living insect stain my line..."

Admittedly Gay wrote that in 1720 and we have not seen worming decline all that much since then but in these affairs one can hardly expect quick results; indeed, there was an unfortunate setback around 1870 when an Edinburgh lawyer devised a crucifix of hooks on which a living worm could live much longer than if he was impaled in the ordinary way.

There is clearly much to be done. Whether a campaign mounted, say, against the Birmingham Anglers to give up worm in favour of bread paste would have much success is open to doubt, but it would stand a better chance than asking them to give up angling altogether. It would also - and this might be a secondary advantage - be less liable to provoke reprisals than throwing stones.

Conrad Voss Bark

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(RECENTLY OR ABOUT TO BE ADMITTED)

required to act as ASSISTANT to Partner specialising in advising Shipowners and Banks on shipping documents and problems. Candidates will deal mostly with non-contentious shipping company and commercial matters particularly the sale purchase and mortgages of ships.

Salary £9,500 + p.a. and other benefits

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(Ref. L.P.)
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LLOYDS AVENUE,
LONDON, EC3M 3AL

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The British Shipowners' Association, an international independent mutual freight demurrage and defence association, is looking for a solicitor to handle charter-party, bill of lading and other shipping disputes. Applicants under 30 years of age with relevant experience before or after admission will be preferred.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to

Mr J. J. Moffatt,
Ingledew Botterell,
Roche & Pybus,
Milburn House, Dean Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1NP
(Tel. 0632 611661)

Ingledew, Brown, Bennison & Garrett

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We urgently require a Solicitor with one or two years post qualification experience to assist a Partner in a busy and expanding department.

The applicant should have had good training and experience in corporate and tax work and also be able to undertake work of a general commercial nature. He/she should wish to make a positive contribution towards the continued growth of the Department.

Drafting competence and an ability to understand the requirements of commercial clients are of prime importance.

Applicants should send a full c.v. to: Peter Jay, Ingledew, Brown, Bennison & Garrett, International House, 26 Creechburg Lane, London EC3A 3AL.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL PARTNER

West End firm with 12 Partners each working as specialists in a diversified practice wishes to add to its Company/Commercial Department at partner level.

The firm seeks a lawyer aged 30-40 years, with proven ability and flair in the company and commercial field, and who has an established connection which could be developed in conjunction with the firm's existing commercial practice from which a senior partner is shortly to retire.

Applicants interested in joining a friendly and progressive team are invited to apply, giving professional and personal history, to

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Quoting reference 005

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Our policy is to recruit only personnel of the highest calibre. We set high standards and expect hard work but in return offer appropriate rewards. If you consider that you measure up to our standards and would be interested in joining us write with C.V. specifying for which position you wish to be considered and marking the envelope Private & Confidential to:

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CARLTON HOUSE, 33 RED LION STREET,
CHESHAM, Bucks HP5 1DN

The undersigned represent a selection of currently registered positions. We have no claim to any particular position and the positions and any other conditions are subject to change. For a full and complete list of positions you are invited to contact us.

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LONDON

COY/COMMERCIAL CENTRAL LONDON £12,000 AAE Medium sized practice near Sol, c.2 yrs exp. Interested in entertainment law. PROPERTY LITIGATION CITY £15,000 AAE Leading practice and commercially oriented Sol, c.2-4 yrs exp. and prior with investment/development experience. PERSONAL TAX CITY £20,000 AAE Sol, 1-5 yrs exp. sought by practice offering quality work + excellent P ship prospects. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CENTRAL LONDON £14,000 AAE Sol, 1-3 yrs exp. advanced with related experience required. Exact prospects.

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CONVEYANCING BIAS MID KENT ENES Sol, up to 2 yrs exp. for mixed property + coy/commercial work. Excellent prospects. CITY/COMMERCIAL HUMBERSIDE £15,000 AAE Coastal practice with strong commercial base need Sol with view to full P ship. NATURALISM MID KENT £10,000 Sol required to specialise in related experience preferred. GENERAL PRACTITIONER 9 BUCKS £12,000 Young Sol required to manage branch office of well established practice. Advocacy experience ideal. Exact P ship prospects.

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Tel 01-492 1281 (24 hrs)

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Midland Bank

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL STANLEYS & SIMPSON, NORTH

Urgently require a Solicitor to assist in dealing with a wide range of matters in their Company/Commercial Department. Ideally applicants will have had a thorough grounding in Company/Commercial work during articles followed by one year's post-qualification experience in the same field.

Applicants should write as soon as possible with a full curriculum vitae to:-

Mrs. S. Fuller, Stanleys & Simpson, North, Swan House, 35 Queen St., London EC4R 1BX

LEGAL EXEC. MID Kent Tynes/Probation Appointments, 242 1281.

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Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
British Championship
Scotland v Wales (8.0)
UEFA U-21 championship
Quarter-final, first leg
England v France (Hillsborough)

First division
Birmingham City v West Bromwich A

Second division
Brighton and H A v Cambridge United (7.45)

Shrewsbury Town v Middlesbrough

Third division
Hull City v Oxford United

Fourth division
Darlington v Northampton Town

Wrexham v York City

Associate members cup

first round
Millwall v Gillingham (7.45)

Newport v Bristol Rovers

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Berwick v Arbroath; Forth v Ayr.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Burton v Rye House; second round: S. Liverpool v Macclesfield; second round: Macclesfield v Macclesfield.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Bob Lord Trophy: Third round, first leg: Runcorn v Bolton.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Walsley v Bolton; second division: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Third division: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Fourth division: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Fifth division: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Sixth division: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Seventh division: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Eighth division: Walsley v Bolton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Ninth division: Walsley v Bolton.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Bradford City v Huddersfield (8.0); Coventry v Gillingham (8.0); Brighton v Arsenal (8.0);

Midweek fixtures: Brighton v Arsenal (8.0); Coventry v Gillingham (8.0);

Football Association Cup: Brighton v Arsenal (8.0); Coventry v Gillingham (8.0);

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Football Association Cup: Brighton v Arsenal (8

Legal Appointments

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For a major UK manufacturing and trading Group with subsidiaries in this country, Europe and overseas. It has an established legal department with responsibility for all legal matters throughout the Group.

Retirement and promotion have created an excellent opportunity for a young solicitor to become involved in a wide range of legal activities with the opportunity to develop into international affairs.

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Salary is negotiable around £12,000 and benefits include car and relocation to the South Midlands.

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McKenna & Co

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We are looking for a solicitor with or without Employment Law experience, who is willing to specialise in this field within our Employment Law Department.

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McKenna & Co

INVERKES HOUSE, 1 ALDWICH LONDON WC2R 0FF

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LITIGATION SOLICITOR

The successful applicant must have some general litigation experience and will be required to undertake general litigation work with a view to later specialisation in the firm's private client litigation department. The vacancy is in the Tiverton office.

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Because the department handles such a wide variety of work relating to all aspects of the oil business you will find it a stimulating post offering real responsibility, autonomy and the chance to work as a member of small team.

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RPS

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Please apply in writing, enclosing a C.V. to:
Robin Preston
Theodore Goddard & Co
16 St Martin's-le-Grand
London EC1A 4EJ

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Linklaters & Paines are looking for young lawyers wishing to specialise in commercial property law.

The Property Department undertakes a wide range of property work, with an emphasis on institutional investment and property development in the United Kingdom and overseas. The work is challenging, and requires solicitors with drive, initiative and a willingness to undertake responsibility.

Applicants should have had not more than four years' experience since admission; they should have good academic qualifications and an ability to mix well with others.

Please apply with full C.V. to:

John Hamilton, Personnel Manager,
Linklaters & Paines,
Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street,
London EC2V 7JA.

LINKLATERS & PAINES

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Previous commercial litigation experience plus the ability to understand scientific and technical matters. The department is handling substantial litigation in the field of patents, trademarks and copyright. Ref: DIT

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Previous experience in this field is desirable but not essential. The work is primarily commercial shipping disputes with some Admiralty work and the position offers the opportunity to join a new and expanding Department. Ref: RHMH

Applicants should have good intellectual ability, energy and an outgoing personality. Please apply with a full C.V., quoting the appropriate reference to Bird & Bird, 2 Gray's Inn Square, London WC1R 5AF.

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The ideal applicant will have a sound academic background and preferably one or two years post qualification experience. More importantly they will also have a lively and well developed personality and an ability to relate to the problems of commercial clients.

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We do not anticipate that remuneration will present a problem for the right applicant.

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